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Near East/South Asia Report

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4 October 1985

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

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ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

BRITISH DELEGATE'S REPORT ON GENOCIDE PUBLISHED BY UN

Paris GAMK in Armenian and French 11-12 Aug 85 p 1

[Publication of report by Benjamin Whitaker in French]

[Text] You have read in our previous issues about the intervention of the representatives of different countries before the United Nations Sub-Committee for Minorities where the question of genocides was dealt with. As for us, we will follow very closely the debates of the 38 sessions which will bring the members of this sub-committee together.

The representatives of the Daschnakzoutioun will keep us informed as this meeting progresses.

On 5 August 1985, the United Nations published the report on genocide presented by the British representative, Benjamin Whitaker, at the very moment when the Sub-Committee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities was beginning its work. In this new report, the Armenian massacres of 1915 are considered as a genocide; a long series of notes and annotations [as published].

"At least 1,000,000, and very likely more than half the Armenian population, were killed or led to death,"--page 9 of the report.

Testimony is reproduced there, dated 7 July 1915 and written by the German consul in Turkey, Vanguenheim, in which he says: "the Turkish government is pursuing its objective of destroying the Armenian nation in the Ottoman Empire." (Archives of Wilhelmstrasse)

"The government which followed helped bring charges against some people who were responsible for the massacres." (note from the report)

In another chapter, the report dedicates 46 pages to the People's Permanent Tribunal, whose meetings concerning the genocide of the Armenians were held in Paris in 1984 and whose verdict was rendered in CRIME OF SILENCE (p 28, note 50).

Ten pages further on, Whitaker observes that in case the application of legal measures at the international level should fail, world peace would be threatened, and people, having lost all hope, would find themselves

forced to take unilateral measures. Indeed, they would even open the way to revenge and terrorism, which would be reprehensible.

In another note on the same page, Whitaker answers Turkey's anxiety prompted by terrorism, by insisting on the fact that "the adoption of international legal measures to compensate genocide would be the most effective means to put an end to terrorism."

The election of the board of the sub-committee was on the agenda of the first meeting.

The election of the president of the meeting stirred up long discussions: the Belgian representative, Marc Bossuit, withdrew, and Daev (Greek representative) was elected unanimously. Vice-presidents elected were Masaiuko Takamoto (Japan) and Dimitrau Mazilou (Rumania). Mubanga Tchiboya (Zambia) was elected reporter for the meeting.

The representatives of the CDCA's (Defense Committee of the Armenian Cause) of the United States, Argentina, Lebanon and France are already in Geneva; they will follow the sub-committee's work closely. The correspondents of the Dachnaktzagan press will also follow the work of the meeting as journalists under authorization issued by the United Nations. A Turkish delegation will attend the meeting as observers. It should be noted that there is not a single Turk among the 26 members of the sub-committee.

The study of Whitaker's report will probably be scheduled for next week. The sub-committee will bring its meeting to a close on 30 August 1985.

9895
CSO: 4619/64

4 October 1985

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

ARTICLE COMMENTS ON GENOCIDE REPORT RELEASED BY UN

Paris GAMK in Armenian & French 20 Aug 85 p 3

[Text] The report prepared by British expert Benjamin Whitaker on the prevention and elimination of genocide was presented on 13 August before the UN Human Rights subcommittee. Amended by a paragraph concerning the Armenian genocide, deleted from the preceding 1978 report because of Turkish pressure, it should, if approved by the subcommittee, confirm recognition of the Armenian genocide by the highest international body.

While nothing has substantively changed in a report that condemns genocide as "the ultimate crime, the most serious violation of human rights," this rectification of an omission that mobilized the Armenian community -- because it is fought by a nation that persists in denying historical fact -- will show the limits of the freedom of action, if not conscience, of the members of this subcommittee and the United Nations in general. Furthermore, it is certainly in anticipation of possible flaws that Whitaker named Greek expert Mrs Daes to head the subcommittee. Her profound motivations protect her from Turkish maneuvers aimed at the report.

It has therefore been established that any obstacle to the passage of this report would be due solely to the maneuvers of Turkey because the genocide perpetrated by the Nazis against the Jews, but also, the report notes, against the Slavic peoples or the Alsations, has been recognized and condemned by the Bundestag, and its past organizers or present supporters are being prosecuted. Under such conditions, the evocation of the Armenian genocide in the historical portion takes on prime importance because, in Whitaker's mind, history should inform the present and correct the future. While not all massacres are genocide, certain past massacres, by virtue of their scope, cause one to reflect on the means of fighting, through effective legislation, that scourage of the 20th century which genocide is. "The Nazi insanity has unfortunately not been the only case of genocide in the 20th century. Among the other examples, one must cite the massacre of the Hereros by the Germans in 1904, the Ottoman massacre of the Armenians in 1915-1916, the Ukrainian pogroms of the Jews in 1919, the Tutsi massacres of the Hutus in Burundi in 1965 and 1972, the Paraguayan massacre of the Ache Indians in 1974, the Khmer Rouge massacres in Cambodia between 1975 and 1978, and the slaughter of the Ba'thists in Iran at present. In Note 13 concerning the Armenian genocide, one reads: "At least a million persons, meaning perhaps well over half the Armenian population, were killed or shipped to their death, according to independent officials or

eye witnesses. This is corroborated by reports kept in American, German and British archives, as well as by reports of contemporary diplomats of the Ottoman Empire, including those of its ally Germany. For example, German Ambassador Waggenheim wrote on 7 July 1915 that "the government is undeniably pursuing its objective of exterminating the Armenian race in the Ottoman Empire." The note adds: "Although the Turkish Government that followed convicted some of those responsible for the massacres, the position of the current Turkish Government is that there has been no genocide, even if accidents or mistakes may have occurred in the fighting...." Elsewhere, one finds a reference to the Permanent Tribunal of Peoples, a session of which was held in Paris in 1984 on the Armenian genocide and whose verdict is published in "The Crime of Silence."

Further, the report notes that this silence is the only generator of violence, to wit, terrorism. "The failure to take effective legal measures on an international level could threaten peace, lead nations to embark upon a desperate one-way process or excuse the deplorable acts of violence of terrorist reprisals." In a note at the foot of the same page, one reads that "over 50 Turkish diplomats, who were, according to all evidence, innocent of crimes against the Armenians in the Ottoman Empire, have been murdered by terrorists. The reform of international legislation concerned with the crime of genocide would certainly help to remove any foundation for terrorism."

Human Rights

In condemning the omission as a decisive factor of the violence of governments as well as of individuals -- terrorism -- Whitaker's report has restored the question of the Armenian genocide to the domain of human rights from which Turkey, by unleashing passion around the terrorism to which the more vulnerable Western nations remain very sensitive, is trying to remove it. Nonrecognition here generates terrorism and only adequate legislation can check this desperate manifestation of violence. Therefore, Armenian terrorism, concerning which one might note that the United Nation's nonrecognition of the genocide in 1978 radicalized it, cannot serve as an argument for Turkey which, by virtue of its denial, engages in the spiral of violence.

What has been said is true of all attacks on human rights, which, the Helsinki Accords indicated 10 years ago, could trouble peace in the world. The reporter proposes a series of measures to counter violence wherever it occurs. The creation of a data bank has been suggested that could inform nations on high-risk sectors and give rise to suitable measures in order to prevent and control, through an analysis of advance signs, any possibility of genocide or massacres.

The general conclusion that one might derive from Whitaker's report is that violence is the sole response to violence. If genocide is not condemned by recognition of the perpetrator, it will be sanctioned by the sporadic violence of terrorism and, what is even more serious with respect to the future of mankind, allow genocide, a passport for every manner of barbarousness, to become commonplace. The moral responsibility for this evolution definitely belongs to the very persons who refuse to recognize a tragic historic error but, in the absence of that recognition, to the international bodies that could bring the

recalcitrant individuals to an assumption -- fruitful for everyone -- of their history. It is for that reason that the appointment of the chairman of the subcommittee on 5 August led to controversy. In the documents, the experts on the subcommittee represent their country, while being detached from any government control. Despite that clause, Turkish pressure in 1978 resulted in the deletion of paragraph 30 on the Armenians. This is why Whitaker preferred, rather than Belgian expert Marc Bossuyt, Mrs Daes, the Greek expert, who one can predict will deter Turkish maneuvers (see GAMK, Wednesday, 7 August). The UN rule according to which the chairmanship would go to a Western expert was not followed. Bossuyt deferred to Mrs Daes, unanimously elected, with vice chairmen Masayuki Takemoto of Japan and Dumitru Mazilu of Romania. Zairian expert Mubanga-Chipoya was appointed reporter for the session.

ANC delegates from the West [sic], the United States, Argentina, Lebanon and France are in Geneva for this session, along with newsmen from the FRA [expansion unknown] of several countries authorized by the United Nations to follow the sessions. The Swiss and mainly Geneva press has not failed to follow the progress of these sessions, from whose conclusions, scheduled for 30 August, date of the end of the 38th session of the Human Rights Subcommittee, the Armenian community expects a great deal and which Turkey dreads. In fact, it has sent a delegation headed by Dr Ataov, Turkish expert on anti-Armenian positions. The delegation will attend the meetings as an observer since the 26-member subcommittee does not include Turkey. The days ahead will tell whether the United Nations, which includes nations that generally do what they please, will, on the precise question of the Armenian genocide on the agenda, protect itself from any manipulation. If so, it will be a victory for the Armenian cause, but then the benefits of such impartiality can only be calculated in the long run and will, in any case, rich in lessons on the role of the United Nations.

11,464

CSO: 4619/63

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

WHITAKER SOOTHES TURKS; SAYS LEGAL STEPS HAMPER TERRORISM

Paris GAMK in Armenian & French 8 Aug 85 p 1

[Text] The United Nations released British expert Benjamin Whitaker's report on genocide just as the UN Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities resumed its work on 5 August 1985. The new report labels the massacres of 1915 as genocide and includes in one of its appendices an extensive list of reference sources.

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Footnote 13 on page 9 of Whitaker's report says: "It is definitely known that at least 1 million and most probably more than half of the Armenian population were either killed or led to their deaths." The report also cites testimony dated 7 July 1915 by Wangenheim, the German ambassador to Turkey at the time, stating that the Turkish "government is earnestly pursuing its goal of exterminating the Armenian race in the Ottoman Empire." A footnote adds: "The Turkish government which replaced [the Ottoman government] helped to bring some of those responsible for the massacres to trial."

In another chapter, the 46-page report notes that the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal established in Paris in 1984 in connection with the Armenian genocide handed down the "verdict of crime of silence." (Page 28, Footnote 50)

Ten pages later, Whitaker notes that "when effective legal measures are not taken at the international level world peace is threatened and nations are forced to resort to desperate unilateral measures, and these lead to regrettable acts of vengeance and terrorism."

In a footnote on the same page, Whitaker responds to Turkish concerns about the spread of terrorism and says: "Legal international measures of restitution for genocide constitute the most constructive way of preventing terrorism."

The agenda of the UN subcommission's first session consisted of the election of a secretariat.

After a lengthy debate about the election of a session chairman, Belgian expert Marc (Bosiout) withdrew his candidacy, and Mrs Erika (Dairev), a Greek expert, was elected chairman with a unanimous vote. Masayuki Takemoto of Japan and Dimitru Mazilu of Romania were elected vice chairmen. Mubanga Chiboya of Zambia was elected rapporteur of the meeting.

Representatives of the Armenian national committees--sponsored by the Armenian Revolutionary Federation [ARF]--from the United States, Argentina, Lebanon and France are already in Geneva to follow the deliberations of the subcommission more closely. The meeting is also being watched by UN-accredited correspondents of ARF press organs from various countries.

A Turkish delegation is attending the meeting with observer status. It should be noted that none of the subcommission's 26 members are Turkish.

The Whitaker report is expected to be discussed next week. The subcommission's 38 sessions will end on 30 August 1985.

9588

CSO: 4605/215

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

TERCUMAN: PRESIDENT REAGAN'S ERROR VICTORY FOR ARMENIANS

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 17 Aug 85 pp 1,4

[Text] The TERCUMAN correspondent reports from Ankara that President Reagan's error has caused rejoicing among Armenians who regard the appointment of California Governor George Deukmejian to the Genocide Council [U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council] as a victory. Armenian-language papers published in California have described this event as a victory and have celebrated it like a holiday.

Meanwhile, since the announcement that the Armenians will also be given a place in the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Genocide Museum [Museum of Tolerance], Governor Deukmejian has taken a more enthusiastic approach to that project. While the Armenian press provides extensive space to the history of "genocide" in its columns, it has rejoiced over the appointment of Deukmejian to the Genocide Council. Thus an Armenian paper published in California says:

"Governor Deukmejian's promise of \$5 million for Simon Wiesenthal Center's Museum of Tolerance has come true. The Armenians will also be given a special place in the new museum. The museum's director Roberti [as published] has declared: 'The museum will be dedicated to the Jews and other Europeans killed by Germans during World War II as well as the Armenians who were massacred by the Ottomans.' Roberti added: 'While planning the extermination of the Jews Hitler took the Armenian genocide as an example and told his colleagues: Today, who remembers the Armenian massacres?'"

The editor of the said paper, Harout Sassounian, writes that so far President Reagan has not helped the Armenians adequately and that, however, the appointment of Deukmejian to the Genocide Council can be regarded as the beginning of the contribution the U.S. government can make for the Armenian cause. Sassounian continues his article with the following observations:

"I am certain that several Turkish officials will experience sleepless nights as a result of Deukmejian's appointment. For years, the Turks succeeded in their efforts to keep Jewish members of Congress away from the Armenians. As a result of the appointment of Deukmejian to the Holocaust Council, the Turks will find before them a very strong front very soon."

Another Armenian journal published in California publishes the allegations of another member of the Holocaust Council, Seth Momjian, who says that "the Armenians have gained much for the future with the appointment of Deukmejian."

9588

CSO: 4605/219

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

TURKISH DIPLOMAT, SWISS JOURNALIST DISCUSS ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Paris GAMK in Armenian and French 18-19 Aug 85 p 3

[Letter by Turkish diplomat Gundu Aktan to the JOURNAL DE GENEVE, interspersed with replies by Swiss journalist Antoine Bosshard, in French; originally published in the JOURNAL DE GENEVE]

[Text] The start of a debate on genocide at the Palace of Nations in Geneva led the Swiss press to reopen the topic of the Armenian genocide, which, it must be repeated, is the main focus of those debates. In its issue dated 14 August, the JOURNAL DE GENEVE opened its columns to a Turkish diplomat whose letter, consisting of questions directed at Antoine Bosshard, the author of several articles in that newspaper relative to the Armenian genocide, should have marked the start of a dialogue. Anyone expecting it to do so is very naive. Gundu Aktan--whose moderate tone, we are told, is encouraging--does no more than repeat the Turkish arguments aimed at disinformation and making it appear that the Armenian genocide was no more than a product of war. It can be said that the most moderate participant in the questions and answers below is in fact the Swiss journalist. Not that his moderation is a reproach; rather, it is the sign of impartiality compelled by reason.

For her part, the Turkish diplomat shows her ignorance in every area--compelled to do so, perhaps, by her obligation to stick to indefensible arguments. It also demonstrates a basic misunderstanding of what is being demanded of Turkey: it is not at all a matter of the United Nations picking Turkey as a target, but rather of performing a public service by making an acknowledgment--that is, by condemning genocide as such. As long as Turkey persists in posing false problems based on false data, the dialogue can only be a dialogue of the deaf in which Turkey grows increasingly deaf itself while trying to muffle its interlocutors.

[Text of JOURNAL DE GENEVE article]

A Turkish diplomat writes to us that the Armenian genocide is "an alleged genocide making people forget the massacres of which the Armenians themselves were guilty." As a debate on genocide opens at the Palace of Nations, Antoine Bosshard responds to her letter.

In our editions for 20, 24, and 25 April of this year, we published several articles by Antoine Bosshard, Armand Gaspard, and Pierre-John Buet relative to the Armenian affair. In a lengthy letter, Mrs Gunduz Aktan [spelling variation as published], a counselor at the Turkish Embassy in Bern, presents all the main points in this painful debate in the form of questions. By her moderate tone, the diplomat is beginning a dialogue. Helped by Armand Gaspard, Antoine Bosshard, who is the journalist being challenged here, responds to her letter. It is a way of reopening the dossier.

[Aktan] Dear Madame,

I have read in your newspaper the articles "The Armenians Between Terrorism and Dreams" (20 April 1985) and "Forgive and Forget" (25 April 1985) by Antoine Bosshard as well as the articles by Armand Gaspard and Pierre-John Buet that appeared on 24 April 1985.

In all those articles, the alleged genocide of the Armenians is treated in several instances as an established fact. But knowingly or otherwise, the basic questions relative to that genocide are avoided.

First, what kind of genocide was it that was supposedly being carried out in the eastern provinces while the Armenians in the west—who made up half of the Armenian population in the Ottoman Empire—were continuing to lead prosperous lives? Are we in the process of creating a new concept of genocide—one based on unequal regional distribution?

[Reply] The deportations and massacres of Armenians during World War I took place throughout the Ottoman Empire, even in areas far removed from the Russian front and where Armenians were a minority, particularly in Cilicia, on the Aegean coast, and in Thrace. The only ones spared were a number of the Armenians in Constantinople (Istanbul) and Smyrna (Izmir), and that was because of the presence of diplomatic and consular missions. In three cities in western Anatolia, the deportation order was not carried out.

"Where Do You Get the Figure of 1.5 Million Dead?"

[Aktan] Second, how far does one have to push one's imagination to reconcile the alleged murder of 1.5 million with the population figures provided by British, French, and Ottoman archives and analyzed in recently published

scientific studies? If, by syllogism, they were all killed (because at the time there were scarcely 1.5 million in the empire, representing two-thirds of the total Armenian population), who are these 7 million people calling themselves Armenians now? If they are descendants of the survivors, did they experience an incredible birth rate? Or can it be that the alleged losses were necessarily far smaller?

[Reply] The figure of 1.5 million dead is not verifiable. To be correct, one must speak of 1.5 million victims, and that would be below the actual figure. The fact is that one must also count the orphans, the raped women, the maimed, those forced to abjure the Christian faith, and, lastly, the survivors who were dying when they reached the deserts of Syria. Besides, the crime of genocide is not measured by number of victims--what characterizes it is the premeditation and planning aimed at annihilating an ethnic group. In that respect, the reality of the Armenian genocide is patently obvious. At the start of 1915, Armenians were a majority in much of the country that has been known as Armenia since antiquity. But by the end of World War I, they had completely disappeared from the portion of that country assigned to Turkey.

From the standpoint of population, it is a fact that the number of Armenians in the world is currently estimated at 7 million, but they are not all descendants of the survivors of the tragedy of 1915--far from it. More than 4 million of them live in the USSR, chiefly in the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic, and most of them are the descendants of an Armenian population that has lived in Transcaucasia for centuries. As for the 2 or 3 million living in the diaspora, they may represent the normal descendants of the survivors of the genocide. In half a century, Turkey has also practically tripled its population.

"At Least as Many Moslems Were Massacred"

[Aktan] Third, how can one ignore the fact that Armenians collaborating with the Tsarist army massacred the Moslem majority in the hope of driving the latter out of their homeland and setting up a national state based on a small minority? Do you feel that those massacred Turks, whose number exceeds that of the Armenian victims, are "less equal" than the Armenians?

[Reply] As Antoine Dosshard clearly indicated, the conduct of Armenians fighting under the Russian flag was deplorable. It means that the Turkish or Moslem victims of Armenian reprisals deserve just as much compassion. In this respect, there can be no discrimination based on ethnic group or religion. On the Armenian side, however, there was never an overall plan to exterminate the Turks. Nor is there any justification for saying that the number of Turkish victims may have been larger than the number of Armenians massacred by Turks. A ratio of even 1 to 10 seems exaggerated. But once again, this type of calculation is to be avoided. Comparison does not make things right: any war crime should be recognized and accepted as such in all its horror.

[Aktan] Fourth, if that was the first genocide in the modern era, why is it that after the invasion of Istanbul, and despite all efforts, the allied armies were unable to organize exemplary trials of the Nuremberg type? Can it

be that after 70 years, someone has discovered new evidence that might justify a reevaluation?

[Reply] There was indeed a kind of Turkish-style Nuremberg trial. It was held in Constantinople from April to July of 1919, and the defendants were the leaders of the Young Turks. The court-martial, whose judges were four Turkish generals and a colonel, acknowledged the full extent and horror of the undertaking to exterminate the Armenian population. It condemned to death in absentia the four individuals chiefly responsible--among them the former minister of interior, Talaat Pasha. He was assassinated in Berlin by an Armenian who was arrested on the spot, tried, and acquitted. In 1943, however, the Turkish Government erected a mausoleum in Istanbul in Talaat Pasha's honor, and one of the main boulevards in Ankara was recently named after him.

[Aktan] Fifth, how, with even a minimum notion of moderation, could you compare spontaneous self-defense by the Moslems and the deportation decision hastily carried out under unfortunate circumstances with the preconceived and premeditated extermination of Jews in concentration camps by a long process of wasting away and call what happened in Turkey "systematic"? What sort of climate of genocide must have prevailed in a country where a hospital "set up by a Swiss committee" at Sivas, in the heart of Anatolia, could accept only "persecuted Armenians"? Can you imagine a similar Swiss hospital reserved exclusively for persecuted Jews under the Nazi regime?

"Don't Expect Turks To Be Scapegoats"

[Reply] The plan for the systematic extermination of the Armenian population in Turkey is comparable to Hitler's plan for a "final solution" to the Jewish problem. The time, the place, and other circumstances may have made equally methodical execution of that plan impossible. But the innumerable testimonies to the massacres of Armenians and the convoys headed for the deserts of Syria do not make them appear less cruel or barbaric than the Nazi regime's death camps and gas chambers.

If hospitals and orphanages run by foreign missions (neutrals or allies of Turkey) were used for Christians and allowed to operate in Asia Minor at the time, it was because of concessions imposed on the sultan by the Western powers (during the last war, certain diplomatic missions played the same role under the German occupation). But at the Sivas hospital specifically, Swiss "protection" did not prevent the massacre of some 2,000 Armenian orphans.

[Aktan] Impartial answers to these questions will help you find the truth. The Turkish people know that truth. They therefore do not feel guilty and cannot recognize as genocide the events of 1915, which were tragic for both communities, Turkish and Armenian. We profoundly regret that grievous intercommunity struggle, which caused much death and suffering. We pray without discrimination for the victims, who were a part of ourselves. At the same time, we scorn those who have manipulated those people for their own geopolitical ends and who are continuing to sow hatred--paradoxically in the name of humanity.

One gets the impression that the Turks are expected to accept a share of responsibility for the genocide of modern times. To that end, the attempt is being made to compel them to admit that they were the first to engage in it, as though Turkey's admission that it was the first to engage in genocide would atone for the perpetrators of and moral accomplices in genocide before and after that time. Although violence is more or less imminent in every culture, it is a fact that historically, tendencies toward genocide have never been seen in Eastern cultures....

We show great respect for the universal aspects of Western civilization. It seems, however, that the Armenian question falls into a profoundly religious and "emotional Western" category, even though concealed behind humanistic arguments. That being the case, Turkey must be pardoned for its inability to accept ethnocentric accusations as judgments of universal value.

[Signed] Gundu Aktan, counselor.

[Reply] We refuse to believe that the Armenian question falls into a "profoundly religious and emotional Western category"--a sort of return to the spirit of the Crusades. The defenders of the Armenian cause are basically people enamored of justice whose number includes not only Christians of all denominations but also atheists, Jews, and even Moslems, first among them the Kurds, who are fighting a similar battle for recognition of their national rights.

11798
CSO: 4619/62

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

MILLIYET: BRITAIN OFFENDS TURKEY FOR SAKE OF ARMENIAN QUESTION

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 15 Aug 85 pp 1,4

[Text] The MILLIYET correspondent reports from London:

A conference entitled "Twentieth Century Europe and Middle Eastern Refugees" has been organized in Britain by the Oxford University. It appears that during the conference Armenian propaganda will be aired and anti-Turkish sentiments will be expressed. The conference is coordinated jointly by the British-based Refugee Research Program and the Refugee Documentation Project of York University in Canada. The "Armenian genocide" will be discussed at the series as evidenced by the participation of lecturer Christopher Walker who is well known for his expertise on Armenian issues and his pro-Armenian activities to date.

The British Council, whose function is to promote British culture and which is directly affiliated with the British Foreign Office, is also participating in this conference in addition to the UN Economic and Social Research Council and the Oxford University publishing house which have contributed financially to the series. Also participating in the series are many historians, writers, researchers, jurists and humanists from various countries. Walker will present to the participants a paper entitled: "The Forced Migration of Armenians: Was it an Accident or Was it Deliberate?"

The conference will last from 17 August through 23 August. Another paper that will be presented at the conference is entitled: "The Greeks of Asia Minor in 1922: The Politics of Demography and the Problem of Readjustment." This paper, which will be presented by Renee (Hirshone), examines the history of the Greeks who voluntarily left Anatolia following the Turkish War of Liberation and the predicament of Greeks who were relocated in Greece in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty of Lausanne and who had problems in readjusting to the local conditions.

The papers to be presented at the conference will cover the following topics: The Palestinian question, the extermination of Jews during World War II, Ukrainian refugees, African refugees and other related issues.

9588
CSO: 4605/218

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

FRENCH ENVOY IN BEIRUT HOLDS TALK WITH ARMENIAN CATHOLICOS

Paris GAMK in Armenian and French 15 Aug 85 p 1

[Text] Last Thursday, His Holiness Catholicos Karekin II received the visit of the French Ambassador to Lebanon Christian Graeffi. The meeting was attended also by the locum tenens of the Catholicosate Archbishop Ardavazt Terterian and the Head Usher Bishop Vartan Demirdjian.

This was the first visit paid by the Ambassador to His Holiness during which he became closely acquainted with the Armenian people both in Lebanon and in the world at large.

His Holiness explained to him how the Armenians of Lebanon continue steadfastly to participate in all efforts to solve the Lebanese crisis in order to strengthen the unity and national consensus. His Holiness stressed the fact that the Armenian community pursues faithfully the basic policy adopted at the start of the crisis, that is Lebanon can only be saved by the mutual comprehension of all her sons.

During the conversations, the Ambassador expressed his admiration for the spirit of inventiveness and enterprise of the Armenian people which it has manifested very eloquently during its long history and continues to show today in Lebanon and in France. During the second part of the conversations, Catholicos Karekin II stressed the importance of the growth of the relations that the French and Lebanese cultures as well as the French and Armenian cultures entertain. He said that the domination of the technological culture should not overshadow the spiritual, intellectual, artistic and human values and that the cultures of numerically small nations such as the Armenians, should find an ample echo with French and French-speaking peoples.

The Ambassador took great notice of this case and promised to discuss it at a later and more convenient date.

The conversations, lasting around an hour, ended in an atmosphere of warm friendship and were considered to be a prelude for future consultations of a more tangible nature.

12364
CSO: 4605/213

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: WORLD SHOULD RECOGNIZE 'GENOCIDE DAY'

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 15 Aug 85 pp 1,4

[Text] It is reported from Brussels that the Belffe report prepared by the European Parliament's Human Rights Subcommittee charges several countries with past and continuing violations of human rights. A lengthy section written by Belgian parliamentarian Jean Vandemeulbruch charges that Turkey is among those countries. According to the information obtained, the said report, which was prepared by Vandemeulbruch with prejudiced views and which was submitted to the European Parliament's Political Committee, will be discussed at the beginning of September. The report is believed to contain several anti-Turkish passages particularly in connection with the issue of the Armenian genocide. These passages were authored by Vandemeulbruch with ulterior motives and malicious intent and are not based on any tangible or persuasive evidence or any serious documentation, just like the previous work done by the said official. Vandemeulbruch repeats the same appeal over and over again calling for the endorsement of 24 April as "Genocide Day" by the whole world and for its commemoration with abhorrence in both the UN and the EEC.

The report, written by British socialist parliamentarian Richard Belffe alleges that human rights are violated in Turkey up to this day, that death sentences are imposed and carried out and that torture is practiced systematically and by most inhuman means in prisons.

The report also talks about the trial of the Turkish Peacelovers Association and DISK [Confederation Revolutionary Worker Unions] and demands an immediate end to this trial. The report further demands that union and other democratic rights and freedoms currently banned in Turkey be reinstated.

In view of these facts, the Belffe report calls for the suspension of Turkey's membership in the Council of Europe and the EEC Joint Parliamentary Committee.

9588
CSO: 4605/217

ALGERIA

SCIENTIFIC METHODS, TECHNOLOGY EMPHASIZED IN AGRICULTURAL TRAINING

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 14 Aug 85 p 2

[Article by Y. Bourmine]

[Text] "Training constitutes the key to the mastery of production techniques. It is this new parameter that today forms the essence of agricultural policy."

Tizi Ouzou (from our office)—Long regarded as the poor relations of our educational system, agricultural training constitutes one of the government's concerns. In the past we firmly believed that agriculture did not require big specialist. People said that farm work was strictly manual and mechanical — a matter of human means and equipment, a lot of men and machines suffice to make the land fertile and obtain adequate results in terms of farm yield.

We realize now that agricultural development involves many other factors. Scientific and technical knowledge, people's knowledge and know-how are in this respect the most decisive factors. We would in fact be incapable of imagining a modern agricultural system with very high yields and of high quality that was based solely on a large number of unskilled workers, a large but inadequate or inoperative body of rudimentary and imprecise knowledge, chance and the whims of nature.

At Tizi Ouzou, agricultural training encounters the same problems as in the other regions of the country:

A lack of status, training centers, agricultural technicians (CFATA (Training Center for Agricultural Technicians)), lack of trainer status....

Inadequacy of budgetary procedures and shortages of credit.

Quantitative and qualitative shortages of applicants for training due to agricultural occupations' failure to attract people and the lack of a career plan for upgrading workers.

Resignations of managerial personnel, the engineers and technicians assigned to training being disadvantaged in comparison with their colleagues in the DAS [expansion unknown], the national education system, university education and vocational training.

Alongside these handicaps, which we might describe as external to agricultural training, we find others, internal constraints associated with the conception and orientation of programs, with job profiles, with organizational capabilities, etc. This produces a list too long to be enumerated of obstacles to training that is adequate in terms of number of trainees, complete and adapted to the needs of our agriculture in the process of change.

Two types of organizations concern themselves with agricultural training through the governorates:

A mid-level technological institute subject to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fishing, as are its 12 other confreres established throughout the country. It was created by Decree 73.59 of 21 November 1973, replacing the Regional School of Agriculture created in 1968 through the transformation of the Practical School of Agriculture opened in 1958.

Now too dilapidated and overburdened, the same facilities have been continuously operated from 1958 to this day, after a fashion meeting the growing needs of agriculture. An extension that was to raise the school's capacity from 200 to 200 students, which was to go into operation as of June 1977, is under construction (suspended since 1980).

None of the planned buildings (10 classroom buildings, 7 administrative and technical buildings, 8 staff apartments, 1 300-seat dining room and a 100-bed dormitory) have been delivered, not even the classrooms and apartments, which are in the final construction phase. Since independence, they have quite rightly transformed the spirit of the institution on several occasions, each time getting closer in terms of quantity and diversity to the training job classifications and needs of the farm sector. But the administration never followed through; specifically, the ITMA [Agricultural Implements Institute of Technology] was never given the wherewithal to carry out its mission and — what appears to be a perfectly logical consequence of this — they ended up confining it to a single field of economic management until the 1979 reform. Having learned their lesson from the lack of correspondence between the kinds of jobs students were trained for by all of the ITMA's and [agricultural] needs, the reform introduced a new formula that permitted them to assign students to a large number of different positions thanks to the extension of the common body of agronomic studies from 6 months to 2 years. As a result, student technicians received more complete general and scientific training and could in their third year opt for one of the six fields offered by the ITMA's, whereas the on-the-job training period was reduced from 1 year to 45 days. A final change, no doubt a bit late in coming but a felicitous one, was made in 1984 when the ministry responsible for them eliminated the special fields of economic management and accounting. Since then, the ITMA's train people only for plant and animal production.

This means that the Tizi Ouzou ITMA has nevertheless made a considerable contribution to the staffing of the farm sector: 721 technicians in the fields of economic management, DRS [Soil Reclamation Directorate] and agricultural production were trained between 1968 and 1984. The complement of the class of

1984-1986 now being trained amounts to 172, 73 of whom are in the regular program with instruction in Arabic.

The teaching staff includes 14 Algerians in the temporary program, 9 of them engineers and 5 technicians. The regular program has been taken over by 9 foreign aid workers, among whom are 6 engineers and 3 technicians. The Algerians teach plant production and the aid workers agricultural production.

Inadequate and dilapidated, the ITMA facilities are composed of 11 classrooms, 8 of which are prefabricated, a laboratory, a library, a 148-bed dormitory, a dining room, a stadium and a farming area of about 35 hectares, of which 21 hectares are cultivated.

In addition to the regular training, the ITMA receives technicians on active duty for improvement and promotion programs. Some 40 of them have already received their technicians' diplomas.

The second type of training organization: two CFATA's, one of which, the one at Freha, has for several months now been assigned to another ministry. Directly responsible for the CFATA's, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fishing only has the Mechtras center with which to conduct its training and popularization programs. These training and popularization programs are formulated in July-August in close collaboration with the daira farm delegations and production units.

Aimed at all farmers and in particular the skilled workers and public and private sector supervisors, the training and popularization program that begins in October is organized about the special fields of plant and animal production, the use of farm equipment, accounting and rural development.

The staffing of the training programs is effected by personnel qualified by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fishing and other organizations under its supervision (CASSAR [expansion unknown], the cooperatives, CFATA, etc.). During the 1984-1985 season this type of training was enriched with a new formula aimed at mastery of modern production techniques and animation of the farm sector through rejuvenation of the labor force. It consists of training supervisors likely to achieve fixed objectives on the basis of ministry directives. Thus the Tizi Ouzou DAP [expansion unknown] has initiated a class of 17 supervisors at the Mechtras CFATA.

The popularization program, the usefulness of which cannot be demonstrated, however, remains too spontaneous, even left to chance; it is at any rate hampered by too many material and psychological obstacles to produce the hoped-for results. Also, the DAP lays more emphasis on training than on popularization.

From 1978 to 1984 the CFATA's trained 676 skilled workers over a range of 25 specialized fields.

11,466
CSO: 4519/182

ALGERIA

BRIEFS

AMBASSADORS APPOINTED--A decree published in the official gazette says that Mr Hamdani Smail has been appointed general secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The following have been appointed ambassadors: Karoum Nouredine to the UN in Geneva; Bouhari Abdel Kader to the Republic of Guinea; Bakhir Ould-Rouis to Brazil; Kherbi Ahmed Amine to Spain and Boulefaa Sac to Sudan. [Summary] [Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 28 Aug 85 LD]

ENVOYS' CREDENTIALS PRESENTED--The head of state has received the credentials of the new ambassadors of Finland, Sudan, Italy, Mongolia, Bangladesh, the United States, Denmark, Jordan, and Lebanon. [no names given] The ceremony took place at the headquarters of the Presidency in the presence of Foreign Minister Dr Taleb Ibrahim, in particular. The new ambassador recalled the quality of the relations between Algeria and their respective countries in their speeches. [Text] [Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 10 Sep 85]

NEW MAURITANIAN ENVOY--The secretary of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau has received the credentials of Ahmadou Ould Sidi, the new Mauritanian ambassador to Libya. They discussed how to bolster relations between the two countries. The ambassador conveyed his country's appreciation for Libyan support against the drought. The secretary of the Foreign Liaison Bureau affirmed Libya's preparedness to promote bilateral relations. [Summary] [Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Sep 85 LD]

MINISTERS' ARRIVAL, DEPARTURE--Within the framework of international cooperation we note the arrival in Algeria of Levi Farah (Balmaseda), the Cuban minister of hydraulics, [title as heard] who is also a co-president of the Algerian-Cuban joint commission and the departure from Algiers after a 4-day visit by Emanuel Gardiner the Liberian minister of planning and economic affairs who conveyed a message from the Liberian head of state to President Chadli Bendjedid and who also had many contacts with Algerian officials--contacts which on departure he described as very encouraging for exchanges between the two countries. [Text] [Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 12 Sep 85]

CSO: 4500/212

EGYPT

JOURNALIST DISCUSSES SOVIET MIDEAST VIEWS

PM301141 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 28 Aug-3 Sep 85 pp 12, 13

['Abd al-Sattar al-Tawilah article from Moscow: "How Do They Think in Moscow? Relations with Cairo Still an Old Soviet Wound"]

[Text] "You want an American wife and a Russian mistress," was a phrase I heard from one of the most prominent CPSU Central Committee members who is considered an expert on Arab and Egyptian affairs.

This phrase defines or reflects a certain trend toward Egypt by the Soviet policymakers. It is the hardline trend that calls for adopting an indifferent stand and not trying to restore Egyptian-Soviet friendship even on a limited scale. This friendship, in their view, is costly for the Soviet Union and only means more loans and grants and then "suspicions," as they had actually experienced in the case of Egypt.

I am quoting almost verbatim the words I heard in Moscow during my recent visit to it looking, among other things, for the reality of the Soviet attitude toward Egypt and the Middle East problem.

It was not difficult to find out that the Soviet politicians adopt a clear line toward Egypt as there is a consensus on a specific policy toward the Middle East conflict.

The proponents of the first line [as published] betray in their discussions a deep bitterness over their experience in Egypt. They show good sentiments and even love for the Egyptian people and talk about their good memories in Egypt. When I told them: Your warm feelings are probably due to the fact that this was the first time that you were received in a Third World country with warm welcome as you were during Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir's days.

They said: We cannot deny that.

The proponents of this view say that the Soviet Union should not take a single concessionary step toward the restoration of friendship with Egypt. Judging by past experience it is an unreliable friendship. As an example they cite al-Sadat's attitude toward them and how he turned them from being friends of Egypt and the Arabs during the war against Israel into enemies and turned the Americans from foes to friends.

But there has been change in Egypt since al-Sadat's death.

They see this change as superficial; the traffic is going in the same direction and only the traffic policeman has been changed. They believe that Egypt is linked to the United States by an unwritten alliance.

How is that?

You do not attack U.S. interests in the Middle East as Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir used to do. While some 20 years ago no U.S. warship dared to drop anchor in an Arab port, the Americans now hold joint maneuvers with you, with Oman, and with Jordan. It was possible to do the same [with Sudan] during Numayri's regime.

Indeed Egypt supported, participated with, and helped the United States in the setting up the so-called Rapid Deployment Force [RDF] in the area in order to threaten its countries.

Egypt has presented and is presenting the United States as a friend of the Arabs and indeed a contributor to their liberation from Zionist occupation and even as a savior from Arab aggressions! Did not Egypt call upon the United States to confront the so-called Libyan aggression and threats to Ja'far Numayri's regime, the AWACS aircraft were dispatched and U.S. aircraft carriers several times came close to Libyan shores?

How could you present the United States as a friend of the Arabs when its battleship New Jersey bombarded the positions of Muslims and Palestinians in Beirut?

Continuing, the proponents of this view say:

Where is Egypt when it comes to denouncing imperialist plans against world peace? Where is its voice when it comes to denouncing the "Star Wars" plan which the world countries have condemned and in which Israel will participate and, therefore, threaten you?

Why does Egypt abstain from voting on a resolution on protecting Nicaragua from U.S. aggression?

Kuwait's role with regard to the policy of nonalignment has now become more distinguished and more serious than that of Egypt.

Does Egypt not perceive the cruise and Pershing missiles deployed in Sicily directed at the Middle East so as to threaten those countries in the event of a third world war and to persuade them to join the imperialist camp.

Moreover, there are now thousands of U.S. military advisers and experts in Egypt and there is an anti-Soviet campaign in all the Egyptian media at a time the Soviet Union has done nothing wrong against Egypt. In fact one cannot imagine what would have happened to all the Arabs had not the Soviet Union been there to repel imperialists designs in the area as far as it is able.

In fact, while not a single Soviet paper attacks what is taking place in Egypt, the Egyptian authorities become angry if a Soviet paper quotes lines or articles from an Egyptian opposition paper and they accuse the Soviet Union of interfering in Egypt's internal affairs.

I told the comrades who are proponents of this view that Egypt is obliged to do so after having inherited a heavy legacy from al-Sadat's era. It is receiving U.S. aid and food supplies. How can it compensate them and how can it free itself of U.S. ties?

They replied as follows:

The Arab world has vast resources that can compensate for any loss of aid not only from the United States but from any other country.

The economic difficulties Egypt is facing are not new. It has faced them before and the Soviet Union cooperated with it; many problems were solved and much was achieved.

The proponents of this view refuse to make concessions to Egypt; they insist on Egypt repaying all its debts and do not care about the further deterioration of relations.

They say that Egypt wants to obtain any Soviet aid or concessions without distancing itself one step from the United States. It wants Soviet gains without real friendship while continuing the alliance with the United States. In other words Egypt wants to obtain from Russia what it cannot obtain from the United States without giving anything in return. There is no better example of this than the fact that Egypt is still appropriating the building which the Soviets built for their employees in Cairo and still insists on closing the Soviet Cultural Center, and limiting the number of Soviet diplomats in Cairo. The Egyptian newspapers ignore the Soviet Union except in matters harmful to it.

The proponents of the other view believe that:

The Soviet Union is primarily responsible for the liberation movements and opposing U.S. and imperialists influence everywhere.

Therefore, we must encourage any trend, even if small, to get rid of ties with the West if only on a limited scale.

Therefore, they see in the behavior of the Egyptian leadership a sincere attempt to get rid of the ties with which al-Sadat has burdened Egypt and restricted its independence. Therefore, it is the duty of the Soviet Union to adopt a positive stand toward the present Egyptian regime.

There is no harm in the Soviet Union making some contribution to economic development in Egypt but cautiously, without haste and generosity as was the case in the past, and in accordance with the principle of mutual benefit.

Serious efforts must be made to settle relations with Egypt so that it will be encouraged to adhere to the idea of convening an international conference to solve the Middle East problem in order to end the conflict in the area-- the conflict that represents one of the world's tension spots which is exhausting some of the Soviet Union's energy.

It has been proved in practice that the collapse of Egyptian-Soviet friendship was a great loss for the Soviet presence in the area and no relations of friendship with other Arab countries have compensated for it.

There is a feeling among many in influential positions in Soviet policymaking circles that the Soviet allies cannot be relied upon. There is also a feeling of frustration over the fragmentation of those allies and the inconsistency of their policy and orientations.

These are the two Soviet views on the question of dealing with Egypt. It can be said that no one view is overwhelming the other. This was evident during the Soviet economic delegation's negotiations with Egypt to settle the debts and conclude an economic protocol.

The Soviet delegation oscillated between adopting a soft line and a hard line until the hard line won and so the delegation left Cairo without reaching a final solution.

Why do the Soviets not support the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement?

Simply because they are afraid that this will be the beginning of a settlement in the Camp David style.

What is the Camp David style?

Direct negotiations for partial solution of the problem with each country separately.

But Egypt and Jordan have agreed on the need to convene an international conference.

Most likely this is for local consumption and with the aim of putting pressure on the United States.

Do you believe that a partial agreement can be reached providing for Israeli withdrawal from all the West Bank and Gaza and recognizing the Palestinian people's rights?

No.

Why the fear then?

Because Egypt insists on direct negotiations between a U.S. delegation and a Palestinian-Jordanian delegation.

This is because Egypt wants to secure a preliminary and essential step for the convening of any negotiations whether international or direct, namely U.S. and Israeli recognition of the Palestinian side, the PLO, which must attend the negotiations.

The Soviets say that they are not against preliminary talks and contacts in this regard, even if directly, if it is true that the idea is to convene an international conference in order to achieve a settlement.

What arouses Soviet suspicions is that none of Egypt, Jordan, or the PLO since the recent agreement are talking about the Fes resolutions or the Fes initiative. They are keen on these first because they emanate from an Arab consensus and, second, because they agree with the Soviet line on solving the problem.

For this reason it is not surprising that the United States and Israel are opposed to these resolutions and ignore them. The Soviets believe that there is an Egyptian-Jordanian attempt to include the Soviet Union in an international conference simply to "rubber stamp" the agreement.

What can force you to "rubber stamp" the agreement and who said that the Palestinians will accept anything less than withdrawal from all their territory and their right to self-determination?

The Soviets draw attention to the fact that Egypt did not declare its opposition to Peres's five-point plan and say that Egypt, Jordan, and the PLO are of their own volition putting themselves under U.S. pressure and opening the door to further divisions within the PLO.

From where shall we begin then?

In the view of the Soviets the beginning should be with the unity of the Arabs. The Fes resolutions are Arab summit resolutions. There must be discussion of ways to reconcile all the Arabs and then agree on a specific slogan, which is an international conference to implement the Fes resolutions.

But some of the Arab countries insist that Egypt should abrogate the Camp David accords, which would mean further tension and perhaps a war between Egypt and Israel.

Egypt's agreement with the other Arab countries and adherence to an international conference means abandoning the Camp David line, which is the line of separate solutions through direct negotiations.

Do the Soviet support the state of no peace, no war?

They consider this a falsehood which U.S. intelligence fabricated in order to make the Arabs lose confidence in the Soviet Union. It is in the interest of the Soviet Union to end the conflict in the Middle East.

What is the Soviets' attitude toward the massacres in the Palestinian camps?

What is the Soviets' attitude toward the massacres in the Palestinian camps?

They oppose them. They have spoken about the matter with President Hafiz al-Asad when he visited Moscow last June. They have also spoken to him about the hijacking of U.S. airliners and expressed their condemnation of such actions that are counterproductive.

What is their attitude toward the PLO under Yasir 'Arafat's leadership?

They are for PLO unity and for this reason they did not declare their support for 'Arafat and rejected an Egyptian proposal that he be invited to Moscow so as not to lose the dissident faction.

How is their relationship with Syria and what role can it play in the conflict?

It is their only ally in the area and is the one that seriously supports the convening of an international conference. It is also capable of thwarting any plans to go back to the Camp David line. It is one of the confrontation states and part of its territory is occupied. It has influence on an important section of the PLO and in Lebanon. For this reason they are arming it so as to thwart any Israeli plan to strike at it in order to end its ability to exert influence. It is also an important bridge to Iran which, despite what has happened so far, is believed by the Soviets to be the principal force in the Middle East hostile to the United States.

Therefore, Syria is involved in major plans concerning the world balance and the potentials for clashes or bargaining with the West as well as the question of presences in the area--the game in which Turkey has begun to play an active role by extending a hand to Egypt via Syria. [as published]

How do the Soviets regard the Arab leaders' attitude toward the United States?

All the Arab leaders are aware of and have personally experienced the harmful U.S. role against Arab interests, the simplest example of which is its cooperation with Israel.

Still those Arab leaders do not take one single step forward against the United States. Why?

Regardless of the agreement on the long-term interests, it is clear that those Arab leaders are afraid of being murdered by the United States. The U.S. role was exposed in the destruction of Beirut.

Do the Soviets believe that there is a solution for the Middle East problem in the near future?

They do not think so.

Why?

Because of Arab dismemberment, Palestinian dismemberment, and Muslim dismemberment as well as the lack of a definite Arab plan. There is no overwhelming power that could force Washington and Tel Aviv to make concessions. Therefore, what is happening now is just a waste of time or paying "lip service" [these two words published in English] that might last 2 or 3 years without any solution being reached.

CSO: 4500/215

EGYPT

OFFICIALS ALLEGEDLY CLAIM ASSASSINATED ISRAELI WAS SPY

GF010522 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 30 Aug 85 p 1

[Text] Cairo—Egyptian Interior Ministry sources have told AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM that the Zionist diplomat assassinated in Cairo on 21 August was a leader of the Israeli espionage network discovered by Egyptian security organs in Cairo recently.

The sources stated that the slain diplomat was the only member of the Israeli espionage network whose departure from Egypt was rejected by Israel. The Israeli diplomat was considered persona non grata, according to a diplomatic tradition that calls for the deportation of diplomats proven to have been involved in suspect activities in their countries of mission. The sources indicated that only the slain diplomat was exempted from the deportation process, which took place after the issue of the Israeli espionage network was settled and the files on it closed. The documents resulting from the investigation were fed into a large document shredder at the Egyptian Interior Ministry in the presence of espionage network members and the U.S. ambassador in Cairo.

Egyptian security sources affirmed to AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM that upon instructions from the Israeli Embassy; from John Whitehead, the recently appointed U.S. deputy secretary of state who had made quick visits to a number of countries in the region, including Egypt; and from Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, the U.S. Embassy applied strong pressure to keep the slain Israeli diplomat, Albert Atrakchi, in Cairo and exempt from deportation. This caused Egyptian security officials to be suspicious of his duties in Egypt and a plan to secretly follow him and observe his movements and contacts was laid down and awaiting approval from Interior Minister Major General Ahmad Rushdi. However, the assassination occurred before the plan could be implemented.

Investigations by the state security organ indicate that the diplomat was an active Israeli intelligence officer and that he was instructed by the Israeli intelligence organization, Mosad, to continue his suspect task of recruiting agents for Israel to work for Mosad in other countries, outwardly as part of a diplomatic mission.

CSO: 4500/215

EGYPT

BRIEFS

CAIRO MEDIATES FOR CAMBODIA--The Cambodian Government has requested Egypt to intercede on its behalf and to ask Angola to grant entry visas to members of the Cambodian delegation chosen to attend the nonaligned foreign ministers conference scheduled to convene in the Angolan capital on 4 September. The Cambodian ambassador in Cairo today met with Ambassador 'Umran al-Shafi'i, assistant to the foreign minister, to make this request known. The Cambodian seat in the Nonaligned Movement remains vacant because of the continuing dispute between the governments of Phnom Penh and the Khmer Rouge over it. [Text] [Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Aug 85]

TABAH ARBITRATION ISSUE DISCUSSED--Cairo, 31 Aug (MENA)--In today's edition, AL-JUMHURIYAH says that during recent exchanges with the United States and Israel, Egypt expressed the need to agree on referring the Tabah problem to international arbitration. Egypt also voiced the need to define the terms of that arbitration. The paper notes that the U.S. Government has shown interest in reaching a solution to the Tabah problem and added that the time has come to end this crisis. AL-JUMHURIYAH notes that the Tabah problem, the Middle East issue, and Egyptian-U.S. relations will be discussed during Foreign Minister Dr 'Isamat 'Abd al-Majid's visit to Washington on 27 September. [Text] [Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 31 Aug 85]

CSO: 4500/215

SUDAN

BRIEFS

FORMER MINISTER RELEASED--Khartoum, Sep 7 (SUNA)--Director of legal department in the national capital Salih 'Awad Salih today issued an order releasing former Labour Minister Oliver Albino who was arrested under the charge of narcotics trafficking abroad and who is now banned from travel. In a statement Salih explained that Albino spent up days of arrest which is sufficient for carrying local interrogation and can not influence the investigation procedures which will be carried abroad. The main charge is classified under the poisons and pharmacies act under which imprisonment is not the only punishment, Salih added. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English 1712 GMT 7 Sep 85 JN]

CSO: 5300/4615

TUNISIA

SITUATION OF WORKERS DEPORTED FROM LIBYA REVIEWED

Social Affairs Minister Interviewed

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 15 Aug 85 p 5

[Interview with Mohamed Ennaceur, minister of social affairs; date and place not given]

[Text] The new situation of Tunisian emigrants calls for an awareness and adequate response on the part of the countries concerned, including Tunisia.

This is the main idea developed by Mohamed Ennaceur, minister of social affairs, whom we asked to explain the difficult situation now experienced by our workers in Libya.

"Solidarity," was the minister's answer when asked what attitude should be adopted by all Tunisians during these difficult times, solidarity on all levels, because Tunisia has the resources to meet all the contingencies, whether they be circumstantial or structural.

[Question] Mr Minister, at the time of the opening session of the most recent seminar of Tunisian workers abroad, you spoke of the new and increasingly difficult situation of Tunisian emigrants.

This situation calls for a new diagnosis and new responses. What are they?

[Answer] Indeed, Tunisian workers abroad are going through an increasingly difficult situation. They are affected by unemployment, which is raging nearly everywhere in the world.

In some countries, the rate of unemployment of Tunisians is even higher than the national average. They endure increasingly restrictive red tape. They suffer from ever more draconian exchange control and in some cases, cannot even transfer their savings. They find themselves in a more and more hostile and intolerant environment. They are ostensibly made to feel that they are foreigners among foreigners. And the foreigners are the ones who must now bear the cost of the economic crisis. They are urged to leave and sometimes

are even kicked out, without hesitation and without warning. Often, the emigrant problem is used by the political leaders of host countries either to maintain a current of opinion hostile to foreigners and forward election purposes or as a new means of political pressure in international relations.

All these upheavals call for an awareness of the new situation thus created and for adequate responses by the concerned countries and Tunisia is among them.

What response? Well, first of all, such a situation must awaken a duty of national solidarity. Our fellow citizens need that solidarity and we must make them feel it. The situation does not only concern a few thousand Tunisians, but all of us. It affects us, goes to that which is deepest within us and touches that which we have in common, above and beyond our differences and disagreements: our national feelings.

Second, the conditions endured by our workers abroad place the emigration issue in a privileged position in our relations with the host countries. We are forced to handle the treatment reserved for our fellow citizens in a given country as an essential element in evaluating the quality of our relations with that country.

Finally, emigration has ceased being an element of detente on a national employment market, a provisional means of absorbing our labor surplus, and is now an additional difficulty that quantitatively and qualitatively aggravates the employment problem, one that we have taken into consideration in our plans and programs of action.

[Question] How do you view the materialization of that national solidarity?

[Answer] In several ways. First of all, by increased interest and attention on the part of public opinion in anything concerning the fate of our workers abroad. The mass media have a great responsibility in this domain.

Second, one can count on the manifestations of solidarity on the part of individuals, company executives and national organizations in facing the circumstantial situation created by the expulsion of workers from Libya. Such manifestations are already being felt, coming from heads of enterprises. But in my opinion, the proposal made at the National Employment Council 4 months ago to create a national solidarity fund for employment, to be fed by a required contribution from all citizens based on their income, is to the point and may constitute a response to the problem of the forced return of our workers and an additional means of intensifying the tireless action of the government in the mastery of the problem of employment and positively channel the wave of national solidarity.

Deportation From Libya

[Question] The Tunisian colony in Libya is periodically the object of deportations and various restrictions. How can the future of that colony be made secure?

[Answer] We are tied to Libya by a labor agreement and a social security agreement that are still in force and that contain provisions for the security of our workers. We must see that these agreements are applied and respected.

[Question] What measures are being taken by the government to face up to the flow of deported workers?

[Answer] First of all, there is an interministerial committee headed by the prime minister, which functions continuously to follow the situation and take the necessary measures.

Several measures have already been taken to facilitate their return and the transfer of deported workers. Regionally, the governors and regional departments have been mobilized to ensure the return and reintegration of Tunisians.

It is also important to emphasize the fact that several company executives have spontaneously expressed their willingness to recruit the workers in question. On the diplomatic level, obviously, adequate measures have been taken. A message was sent to that effect yesterday by the minister of foreign affairs to the high representative of the Jamahiriya.

I have personally gone to the Tunisian-Libyan border, where I saw the provisions being made by the different departments, such as the Ministry of Interior, customs, the Employment Office and the Medenine government departments. That visit was very favorably received by the Tunisian workers, who were sensitive to the move by President Bourguiba and the government.

[Question] The question posed today is whether the Tunisian economy can "absorb" that flow of unexpected labor.

[Answer] The return of the Tunisian workers, whatever the conditions, must not be viewed pessimistically, for we must realize that most of these workers have great experience and certain skills. They can also be promoters themselves, creating jobs and giving a new thrust to the national economy.

It is important to point out that the workers deported by Libya are not "illegals," as was the case in 1980. Most of them were documented and contributed to the economy in Libya.

Situation in France

[Question] At the time of President Mitterrand's visit to Tunisia in October 1983, you proposed to the French Government that it create a common fund to aid the reintegration of workers wishing to return to their country. How is that proposal doing?

[Answer] The proposal was very favorably received and was deemed constructive and interesting by France. It is still on the agenda.

[Question] What practical results have there been regarding the creation of a financial institute to help the country make better use of the savings of the emigrant workers?

[Answer] That was one proposal made 2 years ago by the 17th Seminar of Tunisian Workers Abroad in Sousse. It was taken up and supported this year by the 19th Seminar. Other countries such as Egypt, Morocco and Turkey have carried it out. The proposal was studied by the financial departments concerned in order to guarantee the maximum success, but has not yet been put into effect.

[Question] On what basis will you conduct negotiations with France on increasing family allocations of Tunisian workers in France?

[Answer] Family allocations for the children of Tunisian workers in France have not been increased for several years. At the time of the visit of Mrs Dufoix, minister of national solidarity, we agreed to begin negotiations with France on that increase based on the changing cost of living and family allocations in France.

Returnees Describe Experiences

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 15 Aug 85 p 5

[Article by C. Lai]

[Text] On 13 and 14 August, 700 Tunisians were deported from Libya.

In sober, measured words, they express their indignation over the treatment they have received: extortion, humiliation, annoyances, intimidation, and so on.

Their accounts are heart-rending.

A Mother

"I had to leave behind the fruit of 10 years of hard work. I joined my husband 5 years ago and saw how hard he worked, from morning to evening, until 9:00 at night. Every day, he came home exhausted. We were finally driven out like dogs. For some time, our daily lot has been hateful looks, scorn, insults. We are mistreated over nothing, for example, at soccer games.

"We left everything behind: furniture, refrigerator, utensiles, even money.

"Customs put us through all kinds of humiliations. I could not even give my baby water or food.

"Now I feel safe here. After what I have endured, I prefer to live in my own country, even on bread and water."

Abdessatar El Ayari

"I worked in Libya for three and a half years. I am a baker.

"After the Tunisia-Libya soccer game, we were mistreated. The Libyans proposed that I take 'Arab nationality.' My refusal brought me bad treatment and insults.

After all kinds of harassment, I was kicked out, forced to leave, leaving behind all my possessions and money.

"For transportation, one has to take a taxi. Rates have climbed and are no longer similar to customary rates."

Farm Worker

"I was employed on a farm. After 2 years, I tried to leave, but since there were not enough workers, they kept me with promises: easier terms for transferring money, better living conditions, and so on, so I stayed.

"Recently, I turned in my passport for certain formalities of a final departure. Everything went normally, but when I tried to get my money, they threw me in jail. Not for long, but I had to leave all my things and my savings behind. I had to pay a lot of money for the taxi that took me to the border."

Three More Accounts

"I was threatened. They gave me a choice: 'nationality' or leaving. I rejected the 'nationality' and was beaten. You can see the wound and the stitches. Then I was kicked out without even the time to dress decently. Look at me. The people on the revolutionary committees are hoods. They are armed and dangerous. I brought nothing, not even the 1,000 Libyan dinars that I saved, not even my belongings."

"At customs, they insulted us and stole the little we had. Now we have nothing. There were 50 Tunisians drinking out of the same glass.

"I saw a friend, Hedi, from Kairouan, 50 years old, who was beaten in the middle of the street, in front of his wife and children."

"I work and live in a shop. They came to ask me to take the 'nationality.' They beat me up, rummaged through my things and broke a lot of them. Here I am, without belongings or money."

Human Rights League Protests Libyan Action

Tunis LE TEMPS in French 16 Aug 85 p 2

[Text] In a bulletin distributed to the press, the LTDH [Tunisian Human Rights League] declares its surprise over the serious measures taken by Libyan authorities concerning the thousands of Tunisians working in Libya.

The measures mainly consisted of: collective deportations of emigrant workers and their families; humiliation and inhuman practices concerning Tunisians living in Libya; the looting of belongings, money and passports of deported workers; and the expulsion of emigrant workers without warning to their families and friends.

Based on the survey made among certain sections and on various accounts from victims sent to it, the Human Rights League is certain that the deportation actions are not limited to persons without documents, but rather, involve thousands of Tunisian workers residing in Libya legally and in accordance with labor contracts made with Libyan authorities and enterprises.

Given this serious situation, the LTDH:

- 1) expresses its active solidarity with the victims of this terrible trial imposed on them and reaffirms its determination to make its modest contribution to help them overcome the crisis into which they have been plunged.

The LTDH telephoned the chief of state of the Jamahiriya in order to ask him to intervene and put a stop to this unjust and intolerable situation.

- 2) condemns the inhuman measures taken by the Libyan authorities with regard to the emigrant workers and deems that such repressive practices, legitimately perceived as an intolerable humiliation of the Tunisian people, constitute a violation of human rights and international conventions governing the organization of migratory flow to neighboring countries;

- 3) believes that such actions scarcely help the construction of the United Arab Maghreb as a phase in the direction of the achievement of the aspiration to unity;

- 4) reaffirms its refusal to see the Tunisian people and particularly emigrant workers undergo the consequences of disagreements between the governments of the two countries;

- 5) calls on the Libyan authorities to: a) respect international agreements and accords made by the two countries concerning the transfer of labor; b) guarantee the dignity of Tunisians residing in the Jamahiriya and recovery of their rights, belongings and passports, of which they were unjustly deprived; and

- 6) makes a solemn appeal to all patriotic forces to support the victims of this painful test and join efforts for the purpose of seeking radical solutions to the burning issue of emigration, for the protection of the dignity of Tunisian citizens resides in the possibility of finding work in their own country, thus contributing directly to the task of development.

Telegram to Qadhdhafi

The following is the text of a telegram sent to Colonel Qadhdhafi, head of the Libyan Revolution, by Prof Saadeddine Zmerli, president of the Tunisian Human Rights League:

Colonel Qadhdhafi:

Profoundly moved by the deportation of several thousand Tunisian citizens working in the Libyan Jamahiriya, the LTDH wishes to express its indignation over the inhuman treatment of those citizens.

The League believes that above and beyond the victims themselves, these practices are legitimately viewed as a humiliation of all Tunisians and, more generally, an affront to the dignity of Arabs.

Based on its patriotic commitment and its faith in the protection of the dignity of the human being and reaffirming its unswerving attachment to the ideal of the Arab Maghreb, the LTDH begs you to intervene immediately to put an end to such extortion and ensure respect for the dignity of our emigrant brothers and the restoration of their complete rights.

Saadeddine Zemerli
President of the LTDH

11,464
CSO: 4519/184

IRAQ

KURDS NOT SATISFIED WITH PRESENT 'AUTONOMY,' TOUGHEN DEMANDS

Paris LE MONDE DIPLOMATIQUE in French Jul 85 p 5

[Article by Elisabeth Picard, researcher of the National Foundation of Political Science: "Kurds of Iraq Toughen Their Demands"]

[Text] After the signing of the Iraqi-Iranian agreement in Algiers on 6 March 1975, the Ba'thist army of President Saddam Husayn took only a few weeks to put an end to the Kurdish nationalist movement led by Gen. Mustafa Barzani, now deprived of support from Tehran. The latter, who had rejected the autonomy law approved in Baghdad a year earlier, went into exile. More than 150,000 Kurds (out of about 2.5 million, or 25 percent of the Iraqi population) took refuge in Iran. Others, at least as many, were deported to the swamp region, while the government undertook forced Arabization of Sinjar, Khanaqin and Kirkuk.

More serious, the resistance movement broke into rival factions divided into supporters of collaboration with the Ba'thists in the new local institutions, faithful to Mullah Barzani and desiring to abandon the struggle, and dissidents from his Kurdistan Democratic Party (PDK) who had decided to take up arms again: Jalal Talabani established himself in Damascus at the end of 1975, where he received the support of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and founded the Kurdistan Patriotic Union (UPK).

The resistance reorganized slowly, in clandestinity: the "peshmergas," supplied with light arms from the Lebanese market, returned to the mountains, joined from month to month by people disappointed with the autonomy law, whose application was limited, if not imaginary. In 1978, the Kurdish faculty in Baghdad closed down; the Erbil local government did not have control of its resources; and the "elected" persons in the region were closely controlled by the Ba'thists. However, during the first 2 years of the Gulf war (October 1980 to summer 1982), the financial resources of Saddam Husayn's regime enabled it to soften much of the criticism and to maintain, even among the Kurds, "clients" favoring its developmental policy. Moreover, it had a large militia with the most modern equipment, the army of the people, which in each

northern village relied on collaborators recruited and organized by clan method, the Jach men. Above all, the rivalry between the PDK, encamped in the north along the Turkish border, and the UPK, operating mainly east of Sulaimaniyah, on the Iranian border, frequently degenerated into armed clashes.

The Communist Party (PCI), which broke with the Ba'th in June 1978, tried in vain to reconcile the brother enemies grouped into two fronts in Damascus: the Patriotic Front, around the UPK (12 November 1980), and the National Democratic Front of the PLK (28 November 1980). In turn, Libya tried to combine 19 parties and groups struggling in the regions of northern Iraq on the basis of a joint resolution approved in Tripoli on 6 February 1983, keyed to two slogans: bring down the dictatorial regime of Saddam Husayn, and obtain real autonomy. However, the encounters continued unabated, such as the one on 1 May when Talabani troops attacked the headquarters of the PCI and the small Kurdish Socialist Party [PSK] in Pestachan valley producing several hundred victims.

However, beginning in 1983, the deepening involvement of the adversaries in the Gulf war underwent both a qualitative change and a redefinition of the struggle by the Iraqi Kurds. "Saddam's battle" was becoming more and more expensive; it forced the government to abandon many social projects, in the autonomous region in particular, and even to impose restrictions on the people. Above all, it became unpopular because of the high number of its victims.

Change of Objectives

Many young Kurds--there were 50,000 in the Iraqi army in July 1984, according to Minister of Information Latif Jasim--chose to desert, often with their weapons, and assembled on the heights of the border with Iran, where they constituted a backup force for the Juwd peshmergas (Democratic National Front) [FND]. The Juwd, led by two sons of Mustafa Barzani, who died in the United States in February 1979, received the support of the Tehran regime, whose troops took the offensive twice, in July and then in October 1983, against Iraqi territory. In the Shouman valley, where he commanded more than 3,000 fighters, Mas'ud Barzani now had RPG's and a few DCA weapons. At night, his men entered the towns, where they attacked the camps of the people's army, the government buildings, and the information services. In March of that year, they reached the heart of Erbil, along with units of the PCI, and took several dozen prisoners.

The stepping up of the struggle was accompanied by a change in the objectives of the Kurdish guerrillas. Allied with the PCI since 1978, they were now in contact with the Sh'ite opposition in the south, whose leaders had taken refuge in Iran, with Al Da'wa in particular, and also with Imam Bakr Hakim in Qom. Abandoning, at least temporarily, the independentist and unity slogans applying to the Kurdish nation, dispersed in five countries (Iran, Iraq, USSR, Turkey and Syria), the Juwd leaders, particularly those of the PDK, the PSK and the PCI, gave priority to overthrowing President Saddam Husayn and establishing a democratic regime in Iraq, while watching with circumspection, as Mas'ud Barzani stated to the LE MONDE on 14 October 1984, the "Islamic

autonomy" plans developed by the high council of the Shi'ite resistance. The Kurdish nation was thus cornered into this paradoxical, but tactically quite understandable, situation of two autonomous movements, moreover both called Kurdistan Democratic Party, each fighting against the central government of its country, Iran and Iraq, with the support of and even at the side of the neighboring warring state. Thus, Idris Barzani was installed at Karaj, in the Tehran suburbs, and several hundred of his peshmergas operated in coordination with the Iranian army.

In addition to the fact that this tactic had the disadvantage of tarnishing the image of the Iranian PDK, whose attacks could be confused by the people with those of the enemy and soon-to-be invader Iran, it was reminiscent of the catastrophic precedent of the 1974 to 1975 war, in which the Kurds of Iraq committed themselves to exclusive and necessary alliance with the Shah. Aware of this problem, Mas'ud Barzani then concentrated the PDK's armed activities in Badinan and the northern region bordering Turkey, where he benefited from the support of the PDK autonomists. He increased his distance from Imam Khomeyni, transferred the political command to Damascus, and got in touch with Colonel Qadhdhafi, who, in March 1985, promised him material aid.

In the "war among leaders" that tore apart the Kurdish movement in Iraq, Talabani chose, on the contrary, beginning in 1982, to fight on the side of the Iranian army and the Iranian PDK of Ghassemlou against the Khomeyni regime [as published]. Shaken by the joint battering by the enemy army and the internal opposition, Saddam Husayn stepped up his overture offers in autumn 1983, to which the UPK was the only one to respond favorably on 10 December. The negotiations lasted 13 long months, marked by contradictory rumors, and in the end the UPK announced on 15 January 1985 its final break and resumption of armed struggle. Out of the six UPK proposals, two appear to have been unacceptable to the Baghdad regime: one to give the regional government authority over the Kurdistan armed forces, of which the 40,000 men of Talabani would have been the core, while the Jach would have been dissolved; the other was recognition of Kirkuk and its oil basin as part of the autonomous region, which would thus control the earnings. However, what government in Iraq would ever grant to Kurdistan these two key instruments of independence?

While the negotiation was underway, the popular agitation continued in the north of the country, even in Sulaimaniyah region, the fief of the Talabani. On the occasion of Noruz 1984 (spring feast) and the commemoration of the regime's massacre of students at Qal'at Diza in April 1974, the peasants formed processions, singing nationalist songs, and booing the government troops. The tension mounted in July, when Baghdad suddenly tried to impose a special conscription for the summer months on students of the autonomous region, and on them alone. The fine arts department at Erbil went on strike, and the next day all of Sulaimaniyah university and even the students of Mosul. In the confrontations with the police, which caused several dozen victims, the peshmergas defended the students. During the summer, the people's army, supported by 8,000 Jach militia, suffered a defeat by the joint resistance of 10,000 PDK men, with Juwd allies, and even several thousand UPK members opposed to the negotiations with Baghdad.

In the first months of 1985, the struggle of the Kurds against the Iraqi regime extended to the entire region, from Zakho to Sulaimaniyah and even to Kirkuk. The Kurdish, democratic, and Shiite opposition parties on 13 February rejected new amnesty proposals advanced by Saddam Husayn, and repeated their determination to change the regime. Even if, with international support, the Ba'thists succeed in ending the war without giving in to the demands of Imam Khomeyni, on the domestic scene they will have to reckon with a growing opposition, whose claims have hardened and whose struggle threatens them even in the capital itself. Whatever the outcome of the Gulf war, the Iraqi government will in the near future have to reconsider the autonomy rule granted to Kurdistan.

On the regional level, however, the struggle of the Iraqi Kurds has to face another danger: that of the indomitable opposition by the Ankara government to their national movement. In May 1983, almost 20,000 Turkish soldiers crossed the border and, supported by helicopters, pursued the PPK and the Iraqi PDK several dozen kilometers into Iraqi territory. On 17 October 1984, Ankara made public an agreement signed with Baghdad for "coordinated action" in the border area, authorizing action by its army against the nationalist activists. Was this only a delegation of power on the part of the Ba'thists, grappling with Iran in the Gulf? Or was it recognition of Turkey, which has not forgotten its claims to Mosul, as policeman of the region? Seeing how the Turkish government treats the Kurdish nationalists on its own territory, one can guess that the Kurds in Iraq still have many long years of struggle and suffering before them.

9920

CSO: 4419/13

ISRAEL

PROFILE OF MINISTER YOSEF SHAPIRA

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Jun 85 pp 7, 26

[Article by Urit Shohat: "Blackening the Skull Cap"]

[Text] This week they only dealt with the request of Dan Be'eri, who was sentenced to 3 years in prison, to get release time for a Bat Mitzvah. The commissioner of prisons, Rafi Souissa, who receives almost daily calls from Minister Yoske Shapira's office, did not express opposition. Bar Lev flexed his muscles: It is not hard to guess who will win. Everybody is talking about the underground. Arik Nehamkin, upon leaving the Hilton hotel, and accidentally bumping into Rafi Souissa, immediately asked him about the underground.

When the underground will finally get its freedom without being tied to the decisions made by the courts, Yoske Shapira will owe it his political position but it is just about clear now that he will not enjoy the fruits of success. In Gush Emunim there already is a new generation which wants a power base, in the regional councils and the yeshivas there are many young people who want to change the world, and Yoske has already missed the train a bit. A 58-year old political child, naive to a great extent and very much dependent on his dispatchers, Hanan Porat's errand boy (number 4 on the Morasha list) is now busy in production in Kfar Ezion, while listening on his Walkman to Talmud chapters. Next year Hanan will be the head of a yeshiva, and today the head of a yeshiva is a respected political and spiritual leader.

Everywhere and constantly the underground activities are denounced but it should not be forgotten that with the exception of Yo'el Ben Nun and a few others, no feelings of abhorrence toward their activities were expressed, and the self-examination that was discussed did not take place. They were and they remain the most senior and the best of the faction and therefore the story of their release is not only a humane step but also a political struggle among the parties who fight for the confidence of the public, which actually sees them as heroes.

This is a faction which does not forget and does not forgive. They remember the fact that it was while Yosef Burg was the minister of police that the underground was arrested (he defends himself, saying that Shamir and counter-intelligence did not even let him know about the expected arrest); they

remember that Zevulun Hammer only stammered something about the need to release the detainees so that the wounds would be healed; they still remember the fact that Yitzhaq Rabin called Gush Emunim "cancer" and never took his words back, but they think that he takes care of the security of the West Bank better than Arens and Sharon; they bear in mind that Arik Sharon settled the West Bank and therefore they forgive him Lebanon; they remember the days when Shimon Peres was the nicest minister of defense for Gush Emunim; and they do not forgive Yitzhaq Shamir the fact that as prime minister "he allowed the underground to get entangled with acts of violence." Nothing will help him, and even given the fact that he was the first to tie the terrorists' release to that of the underground, he lost. It is possible to reasonably bet that if President Herzog will be drawn by Peres to grant amnesty, that then the national religious faction will not hesitate to join the Labor Alignment in a narrowly-based government. Interests of a narrow group cause theories about the good of the country to be attributed to them.

The protest in Kikar Malkhe Yisra'el last week can also be examined in the same petty manner. Why were Yoske Shapira and Hanan Porat opposed to its existence? The reasons they offer are, of course, fundamentally nationalistic; no one will catch them with facetious reasons, but the bare facts are as follows: The protest in Kikar Malkhe Yisra'el was by Daniella Weiss, Gush Emunim secretary, who is a member of the TEHIYA. The public that came there was perhaps not aware that it was a test of power between TEHIYA and Rabbi Levinger, who presently is identified with its opposite, Morasha. The TEHIYA, now in the opposition, is regarded as the more extreme, and leaves for "Morasha" the institutionalized lobbying arena and in the meantime builds its power base in the streets. The TEHIYA is building, with the cooperation of the religious and lay, something which "Morasha" is opposed to. All together they will probably not reach the ankle of Kahana, who is also gaining power in the West Bank settlements. Yoske Shapira, who is very eager to head a united national religious faction, to return to the NRP "to raise" it, might disappear faster than it seems to him from the political life into which he was accidentally thrown, but his style requires deliberation. This is a style which keeps the national religious faction as an elitist group, no more than a very large branch of Bnei Akiva. At first glance he seems like a new Zevulun Hammer, but this is not a fair comparison. The ability to kindle in people an inclination toward action or performance rather than party work, the personal example, the warm human contact and the easy and simplistic solutions which are attractive due to their lack of conventionality are reminiscent of Ezer Weitzmann's style. Yoske Shapira belongs to the type which grew up in Bnei Akiva and moved on to Gush Emunim; the moderate fanatics, those who pretend to be modest and see themselves as exponents of Zionism, which is the decisive answer to the small heads which have developed in the lazy kibbutzim, terrorism in a cordial manner, rudely violating the state law while repeatedly calling for statehood. If they will only let Yoske Shapira, he will send, according to him, 250 yeshiva graduates "to raise Qiryat Shemona." He speaks about the national religious faction as a "higher quality society, which obeys the law more, and which has the needs of the nation as its top priority," and he is insulted when I ask him why he does not act also for the release of David Ben-Shimol; Ben-Shimol does not belong to that family, He is

not one of them. He did not grow among them. He belongs to the mob which is instigated by Kahana. The underground detainees come from a select society and not from criminal society. They will constitute a wedge against Kahanism. What is the connection between such quality violence and between the simple hot-head who become enraged at Arab terror against Jews and fires at a bus? When the organizers of the Gush Emunim protest called upon the larger public to join them they used cassette tapes of Jackie Mahecton, but they can not rival the popularity of Kahana, who does not differentiate between elitist terror and that of ordinary people. Therefore Yoske Shapira will remain a minister of the elite and Kahana will sweep the box office. Peace Now with knitted skull caps.

Yoske is the son of Yeshayahu Shapira, who is referred to as the "pioneering rabbi" in religious circles. The mere mention of his name elicits admiration. But Yoske is an example of wandering astray from the teaching of his father, who if he lived today might have returned all the West Bank in exchange for true peace and the cessation of violence. The pioneering rabbi was the one who initiated the idea of "Torah and Work"; he gave up the honor of being a rabbi and went to work the land. He was a moderate of moderates, close to the Brit-Shalom people, but Yoske Shapira prefers to remember the arms cache that was in his father's house in Jerusalem to prove that he is indeed following in his father's footsteps: father knew how to live with the Arabs but also to arm against them when it was necessary. And besides, he, too, would like to live in peace with the Arabs. Yoske's mother died at his birth, and when his father decided to retire from his position as the general manager of the Zerubavel Bank, his children followed him to Kfar Pines. If his father had not died when Yoske was only 17, things might have turned out differently, but he was forced to be independent at an early age, to leave the Yeshiva studies which he loved very much, and to work as a clerk for his livelihood.

Yoske did not inherit his father's charisma, nor his political moderation. As befitting the son of the one who established the "Mizrahi Worker" because the "Mizrahi" seemed to him too bourgeois, Yoske did not go to Avraham Shapira's fancy wedding at the Hilton, even though he was invited. Rich men's manners are alien to him. Maybe it is relevant and maybe not at all, but in the eggplant salad spread on a cracker with a piece of tomato in the modest living room of an old apartment in Bne Brak, there is a lot of charm which does not leave any doubt regarding Yoske's sincerity in this area and maybe in others. He practices what he preaches.

He got involved with Bne Akiva by chance when his childhood friend Gershon Sheft went to establish Biriyya and Yoske was asked to replace him in training. Later he went to En Zurim, which fell with Gush Ezion during the War of Independence. Later he married Brakha, who indeed tried to go with him to settle in the new En Zurim, and later in Moshav Hemed, but her longing for city life returned them to Bne Brak, a city which his father helped establish.

Yoske knocks on the door before he enters his assistant Avner Foxman's room. When his wife starts to speak he becomes silent. When his 17 year-old son comes home from his studies in a yeshiva in Netanya, the interview no longer

interests him. He does not know how to sell himself and requires a lot of reminders. In Bnei Akiva they refer to him as "Mr Bnei Akiva," because he established the World movement, headed it for 23 years and transformed it from the smallest to the largest among the world's youth organizations. When he says, "I personally brought to the country 30,000 people," it is not an exaggeration, and when he tried to gather them a few years ago and 7,000 of them showed up for the gathering, he did not try to use it politically but rather saw it as a family gathering. Most of the people he knew from celebrations, or funerals from the "Tehila" organization that he himself established and through which older religious families started to come to Israel. He has been around the big world and speaks its various languages, knows its weaknesses, and does not see its greatness and temptations. His world remains as narrow as that of a Jew: Israel is central and in it there is one faction which is more important than any other, the National Religious Faction, without which there is no past and no future. Redemption will come from the Hesder Yeshivas. The settlement of the West Bank is too small a vision for him, therefore the TEHIYA party, which cooperates with lay persons in keeping the country intact, is not farsighted enough. What will happen when they finish settling the West Bank? What about the greater ambitions of this wonderful group?

An attempt to talk to him in depth about the separateness and haughtiness of his group, about the frightening Hasidic fervor accompanying his words, which reminds us of his rabbinic background, about the fact that the majority of the nation is not interested in following the National Religious path, all of this falls on closed ears. Live and let live is a betrayal of the mission of the faction to uplift this dispirited and lost people. Until the Peace Now movement builds one settlement in the Galilee, he has nothing to talk to them about. The idea that a protest movement does not have objectives like that is not to his liking.

Even among the NRP party workers who are experienced in vilification, I could not find any derogatory comments about Yoske Shapira, but they had their sweet revenge on his leaving the NRP. Yoske will not admit economic hardship, but after 23 years as the secretary-general of the Bnei Akiva, he did not receive any pension, and he is supposed to get it only when he is 65 years old. At the age of 50 he went to look for himself for a new endeavor and found himself in the Chispin region in the Golan Heights, helping the religious kibbutz to regain its settlement point. In 1978, when the NRP began to smell his imminent departure, they found him a position as the head of youth immigration in the Jewish Agency. He was very successful in that position. There, too, he formed many personal acquaintances which did not bear any political fruit. After 5 years, when he did not agree to commit himself to stay in the NRP, he lost that position.

Yoske was hurt by many friends along the way, but he speaks no evil. Others tell me the story of Rabbi Haim Druckman, whom Yoske raised and cultivated in Bnei Akiva, and who, with the passage of years, has become foolishly pious. When Druckman was sent every year by Shapira to lecture in Bnei Akiva seminars abroad, and one of the envoys would comment about the quality of his lectures,

blood would run to Yoske's head. To him Druckman was above any criticism. Druckman was cultivated to be a Knesset member after withdrawing from the NRP along with Yoske, but what was clear to everyone--that Druckman would yield his seat to Yoske--was not acceptable to Druckman and Yoske was not willing to challenge him. Druckman, who already has lost a lot of his glitter in his group, as Rafi lost his glitter in TEHIYA, is still a "Rabbi for Yoske," and a personal friend who was alongside him throughout the years. But the tension still exists.

It was Hanan Porat who turned Yoske into a minister who is not a Knesset member. On the day the government was formed, Porat arrived at Arik Sharon's office and informed him that if Yoske did not become a minister, "Morasha" would not be a satellite party of the Likud, and its partnership in the coalition would not materialize. The large parties, who were apprehensive, were ready for anything and Yoske became a minister.

The first months were aggravating. With great care Yoske would register to speak on almost any topic that came up on the government agenda. Afterwards, he began to crystallize plans that always conflicted with the plans of another government office: At first he began economic initiatives, later he began to fight for the absorption of the Ethiopians in the West Bank settlements. Later, he placed on Arik Sharon's desk a plan for the housing of 250 Yeshiva graduates in Qiryat Shemona to prevent local residents from leaving the place. Sharon rejected him. Later, he brought Peres a plan for ties with the Diaspora and he dismissed him and sent him to a meeting with Avraham Tamir, which no doubt produced a document which sits in someone's drawer. And then he finally understood that the underground is a full-time job. One can not accuse him of cynicism on this topic because he was preoccupied with it without the media attention for a long time. The underground wives turned his office into their home and he turned the prison into his home. Later came the deal for the release of the terrorists and the secret activities of endless lobbying for the underground detainees became known. He says: "If God gives me power, I would like to establish the new National Religious Party." This is why he is also busy lobbying for religious issues and visits Peres' office also regarding the operation of the new cable in Haifa on the Sabbath. Even if he is not a polished politician, he can sense his faction's mood and is not detached from it. Today it is clear to him that the direction is religious education, the knitted skull cap becomes blacker. Therefore he is asking the national religious faction to be more up-to-date and to begin to tempt newcomers, not by kibbutz training but by religious training in the Hesder Yeshivas. They say about him that he is one of those who were hit by the messianic wave of the early seventies. His letters to Bnei Akiva emissaries abroad, which at first were Zionist-Religious, became Religious-Zionist at the beginning of the seventies, enveloped with messianic tribulations. He completely denies this and accuses Daniella Weiss of excessive messianism. To the bystander, it is difficult to see the differences between the two, but it is easy to spot the dangers in this incessant energy and in their shining eyes.

[Box on p 26]

[Question] You publicly admit that the underground actions are terrible. Why can't you treat its people who are on trial now the same way as the National Kibbutz movement treated Udi Adiv? Why can't it be settled by the law?

[Answer] The main difference between the actions of Udi Adiv and the underground, which I emphasize as being very serious, is that Udi Adiv acted against the country and admitted it, while they believed that they were acting for the benefit of the nation.

[Question] What about that part of the nation which believes that the underground acted against the country?

[Answer] From public opinion polls, it is evident that the majority of the public want to see them released.

[Question] Isn't it as a result of your instigation against the trial? Are people usually sent to prison according to the results of public opinion polls?

[Answer] The court should take into consideration the public's wishes.

[Question] What should the court decide to take into consideration? If the public realizes that the law discriminates between Arab terrorists and Jewish terrorists, more terrorist groups will spring up. Maybe the opposite will happen; if they are not punished, another underground will form on the West Bank and demand not to be discriminated against.

[Answer] I will never again patronize groups or individuals which commit similar acts. Even if the sons of the underground detainees do it I will not act for their release. With the next group the law will be applied.

[Question] What would you have said if on a certain kibbutz an underground had sprung up which killed Kahana activists for the benefit of the nation?

[Answer] If it became clear to me that it was done inadvertently, that the government led them to believe that it is a desirable act...

[Question] This argument was raised in court and was rejected.

[Answer] This does not mean that it is not the truth. The court believed that it is not relevant but they did not lie. My criteria to release prisoners, any prisoners, are as follows: What are the chances for rehabilitation, is it a one-time offense, will he return to a criminal environment. These people come from quality elements, a health society, a law-abiding society. They admitted their mistakes, they will never repeat these offenses. There is no danger.

[Question] Also, the one who kills his wife's lover will not return to a life of crime but usually he receives a life sentence. Don't you take into consideration the deterrent factor?

[Answer] Yes. For example, one who kills for the family honor is not a criminal but because of the prevalence of this custom, it is necessary to use a deterrent punishment.

[Question] What about those who murdered the Arab cab driver?

[Answer] I don't know them and I don't want to offer an opinion.

[Question] Is that to say that terror which is committed by your people is a more positive terror?

[Answer] It is not positive at all but I am already thinking about the next stage, how together with the released detainees we will begin an educational campaign against this infection. The released detainees will be a wedge against Kahanism.

[Question] How will it finally take place, with political extortion?

[Answer] I do not see anything harmful in it. If someone can not withstand it because of principles he can resign. I will not shoot the attorney-general. Maybe I will stage a hunger strike near the president's house.

9944

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LEBANON

ASSEMBLY LEADER MURR DISCUSSES NATIONAL DILEMMA

Beirut LA REVUE DU LIBAN in French 10-17 Aug 85 pp 17-19

[Report on interview with Michel Murr, National Assembly leader; date and place not given]

[Text] The Ehden meeting of which he was one of the sponsors, the motives leading certain elements to perpetrate the attack on his Bteghrine residence, the 12 March Movement, negotiations aimed at the establishment of the Christian Rally for a Unified Lebanon, his recent visit to Damascus and other current issues were the subjects of our interview with Michel Murr.

In order to learn the truth about what has happened on the Lebanese scene since the 12 March Movement to date, we knocked at the door of the former minister, who left politics in 1983 and 1984 to devote himself entirely to his own affairs.

He then returned by the front door in early 1985 to play an important role in Lebanon and, what is even more important, on the Christian scene.

Having discharged ministerial duties several times since 1969 and represented his district in the National Assembly, Murr has created solid relations with all parties active on the domestic scene, including: President Sleiman Frangie, the Lebanese Forces (FL), the Kataeb Party, President Karame, W. Jumblatt and others. On the regional level, he has maintained contact and excellent relations with the Syrians, even under the most difficult circumstances.

At the present time, he is mobilizing his friendships and good relations in order to promote the process of national reconciliation and thereby help settle the Lebanese crisis.

It should be recalled that he was appointed member of the committee arising out of the Christian congress held at Baabda Palace. Headed by Cardinal Antonios Khoraihe, Maronite patriarch, the committee had the task of settling the crisis caused by the 12 March Movement.

He then became a member of the tripartite committee with the task of dissipating the tension that characterized relations between the Kataeb and the Lebanese Forces. He was the only member affiliated with a party to be approved both by

the Kataeb and the Lebanese Forces and also the only politician to witness the reconciliation between the FL and that party (Metn Regional), whose representatives were gathered together at the home of his son Elias at Halate-sur-Mer.

Finally, he was the politician who planned the Ehden meeting of which he spoke to us openly: "Apparently," he said, "it is an inter-Christian reconciliation, but basically, it is a national reconciliation. Preparations for it began nearly a month ago. Having visited President Frangie, I questioned him about it, but the climate was not yet favorable."

Important Event

"I took it up again in July, when I had a 2-hour meeting with President Frangie, who was convinced and who approved of the principle of reconciliation, agreeing to meet with the head of the Executive Committee of the FL, Elie Hobeika, giving me complete freedom to set the date.

"Upon my return from Ehden, I met with Hobeika and told him of the positive results of my meeting with President Frangie and the former chief of state's agreement to meet with him. At that time, we decided to notify our Syrian brothers, convinced that they would approve of any move of that nature because it could help settle the Lebanese crisis.

"I subsequently contacted President Frangie and a decision was made to set the meeting for Wednesday, 31 July, in Ehden. The meeting can be considered as an important event, disregarding everything that has happened. And yet, the exchanges of views that took place in a cordial atmosphere, in addition to the generous spirit of President Frangie, greatly helped ensure the success of the meeting, whose results were positive on all levels and can be considered as a first step on the path leading to the solution of our national drama."

Why the Bteghrine Bombing?

Asked to explain the reasons motivating those who bombed his Bteghrine residence, Murr reflects: "When a man accomplishes an act similar to what I did in Ehden and given the importance of that act on the Christian and national, regional and international levels, he must expect a reaction from petty elements operating with the benefit of darkness.

"You ask me whether I suspect anyone of having perpetrated the attack and I will tell you that my suspicions are directed at those bothered by the Ehden reconciliation and harmed by it. They know who they are and I know who they are too, in my heart.

"As for my own reaction, you must have seen it in my statement issued after the bombing of my home. I repeat: Such criminal acts do not intimidate me. On the contrary, they encourage me to double my efforts because I am convinced in my heart and conscience of the rightness of my action, which helps Christians in Lebanon and helps solve the national crisis."

Questioned about the state of his relations with the Kataeb Party and the Lebanese Forces, which have caused him to be one of the few politicians to have the approval of both parties, Murr states: "Friendly relations have linked me with the Kataeb since 1960, when we participated in the legislative elections on the same list. Those relations have evolved and become a solid friendship with the Gemayel family and the party as well."

Friendship and Political Independence

"And yet, my relations and friendship will not make me lose my political independence. For example, I supported the policy of President Sarkis on the domestic and Arab questions, although sometimes being in contradiction with the Kataeb, but that did not hurt my good relations with the party.

"When the latter presented the candidacy of Pierre Gemayel in the 1970 presidential elections, my voice was the tenth that Shaykh Pierre obtained, in addition to the nine other votes from the Kataeb deputies. When the party introduced the candidacy of Bachir Gemayel, I was the first to support it. The same was true when Shaykh Amine sought the highest office.

"As for my relations with the Lebanese Forces, they began with the election of Shaykh Bachir. I met his close aides, including Elie Hobeika. That friendship developed because of my exclusion and theirs from participation in political action in the past 3 years, of which you know the reason."

[Question] Did that exclusion harm you and the FL?

[Answer] Personally speaking, I think that it helped me. On the national level, I could have expressed a less harmful opinion than those expressed. As for Hobeika and his comrades, I believe that the exclusion was beneficial to them personally, provided they mobilize their "movement" to put an end to the state of war and settle the crisis. Speaking generally, they could have adopted positions useful to the government and the country.

Halate Meeting

[Question] A week ago, a meeting took place at the home of your son, Elias Murr, in Halate, along with the president of the FL, leaders of the Metn-North and yourself. Can you tell us what happened at that meeting?

[Answer] Actually, an agreement was made on Sunday, 14 July, in my presence, between the persons you named, and that agreement was to be ratified the following day by the Politburo of the Kataeb and the Executive Committee of the FL. It provides for the unification of arms on the Christian scene under the command of the Lebanese Forces.

"The climate at the meeting was positive and there was obvious understanding. I personally helped bring their views together, convinced of the rightness of such a move and not with any intention of tipping the balance in favor of one side at the expense of the other, especially since, in my opinion, they were not two distinct parties. My main goal was to spare the eastern zone any military disturbance and any possible bloodshed.

[Question] As a member of the tripartite committee that brought you together with Joseph el-Hachem and Karim Pakradouni, a member of the liaison committee headed by Cardinal Khoraiiche set up at Baabda Palace and of the "Committee of the Five," you are up on the talks aimed at solving the crisis as a whole. Can you tell us why it has not yet been settled in a radical and definitive manner?

[Answer] I have been a member of all those committees and have thereby participated in all conversations. As for the details, they are contained in the minutes or documents that could constitute abundant material for an article. And yet, I would sum up the problem as follows:

1) exclusion from the 12 March Movement from leadership of the Kataeb Party and its decisions; 2) the making of political decisions at the party level without giving the Lebanese Forces any possibility of being in on them; 3) disagreements between the younger generation and those who control the party; and 4) the feeling of persecution of some of the Lebanese Forces after the death of Bachir Gemayel.

We have presented practical proposals aimed at a solution but they have always encountered obstacles at the last minute. That is why one cannot blame the committees for the failure of efforts made to settle the crisis.

[Question] Who is therefore responsible?

[Answer] We shall make public the content of the minutes at the proper time and they clearly show who is responsible.

Christian Rally

[Question] You were one of the promoters of the Christian Rally for a Unified Lebanon. What has happened to that group? Why was it not set up and does the expanded Lebanese Front have something to do with it?

[Answer] Yes, I called for the formation of a Christian Rally, excited by the idea of unifying the scattered Christian movement. Unfortunately, pressures and interference froze our contacts. We have been temporarily immobilized because, as its name indicates, it is a Christian Rally, not a new political bloc.

In our opinion, the Kataeb, the PNL [Lebanese Nationalist Party], President Frangie, the Maronite Rally and a number of independent personalities should have been a part of it. However, the Kataeb, through their vice president, let it be known that the party no longer belonged to our movement. Then the PNL formulated reservations and the Maronite parliamentary rally withdrew.

You know, along with Christian public opinion, the reason for this state of affairs. We therefore decided to halt our activity until further notice.

As far as the Lebanese Front is concerned, I must express my respect and appreciation to its president and current members. But the timing of its expansion

was a tactical error. President Chamoun and his colleagues may have been misled by the presence of certain members affiliated with parties hostile to the Christian Rally.

Actually, the expansion of the Front did not affect the Rally because the Front has political factors and positions that are different from our own.

[Question] Is it true that you are preparing to put out a daily newspaper after acquiring the license from Al-Jumhourieh? When will the newspaper be published and will it expressed a specific bias?

[Answer] The Al-Jumhourieh license was obtained by my son Elias and I have no connection with the newspaper, which will appear around mid August, I believe. The Dar Al-Jumhourieh company that will publish it is his property and he has no financial or journalistic associates. Furthermore, the newspaper is independent and is connected with no party or political bloc.

[Question] How do you evaluate your relations with the government, particularly with President Gemayel?

[Answer] Personally speaking, they are perfect, but politically speaking, there are certain divergencies.

[Question] Last month, you made a visit to Damascus and lunched with Gen Mustapha Tlass, Syrian defense minister, and you met with Col Mohamed el-Kholi. Can you tell us about your meeting?

[Answer] I have been good friends with General Tlass for years and I always visit him. Actually, I responded to his invitation last month and I happened to meet with Colonel Kholi to discuss matters of interest to both countries. I am one of those who believe that solid relations of friendship with Syria are the key to salvation for the Lebanese and the key to the solution of the Lebanese crisis.

[Question] Do you believe that the crisis is coming to an end?

[Answer] We are in a truce. If we take advantage of Syrian support and if we sincerely deal with one another while understanding the position of each side on the Lebanese scene, then we can start down the path toward a solution. The settlement process could last a few months.

But today, I cannot predict the future and probe anyone's intentions, although I spare no effort to try to put an end to the state of war and close the Lebanese file, finding solutions that will satisfy all sides.

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LEBANON

PAPAL ENVOY ON SECTARIAN PROBLEMS

Paris LE MONDE in French 26 Jul 85 p 5

[Interview with Papal Envoy Cardinal Etchegaray in Rome by Francoise Chipaux; date not specified]

[Text] Rome--The envoy of John Paul II, Cardinal Etchegaray, spent a week in Lebanon at the beginning of July, including 3 days at Jezzine, the place of refuge for thousands of Christians driven out of their villages east of Saida or Iqlim-el-Karroub. The cardinal received us at Calisto Palace, in the Roman quarter of Trastevere, seat of the Peace and Justice Committee which he chairs, to give us his analysis of this pastoral journey. Referring to the rights and hopes of Christians, he also emphasized the duties and the "forgiveness" that all the communities torn by 10 years of war should show. The Christians must be "in the vanguard" of the efforts toward a "true reconciliation," which "requires sacrifices."

Cardinal Etchegaray explained: "I spent more time in the field, among the people who are today the most threatened of all Lebanon (the Jezzine area), rather than in the halls meeting political and religious leaders of the country. It was a real apostolic journey, among the people, that I made to what remains of the last fragment of Lebanese territory where Christians and Muslims still provide an example, certainly fragile but authentic, of a peaceful and fraternal coexistence.

"It is necessary to avert the possibility of Jezzine and its area sharing the tragic experience of other nearby areas such Chouf, Iqlim-El-Quarroub and east of Saida, where thousands of families paid the price of their blood or exodus for belonging to one or the other religious community.

"The presence of an envoy of the Pope in this kind of vise, where the anguish of the inhabitants and the despair of the 'driven out' are concentrated, was intended certainly to bring a message of comfort and hope. However, conversely, and even more strongly, it was they who charged me with a message for the world: the permanence of the desire to live together of the Christian and Muslim communities, when they are not blindly dragged along by the

excesses of fanaticism of all ilk and the multiplicity of armed militia."

Wounded Christ

[Question] After 10 years of war, massacres, and bloodshed on every side, can the message of reconciliation, peace and brotherhood still be received by the Lebanese people?

[Answer] This message--the message of the Beatitudes--has never been easy. In Lebanon, it is today made more obscure by the smoke of dozens of devastated villages or the incredible rubble of West Beirut. How can one talk about reconciliation to all the young people who were born during the war, and of whom many live the war?

In a church in southern Lebanon where there hung a wounded Christ, and surrounded by some 30 children each holding a photograph of a member of their family who had been massacred, someone whispered in my ear: "Here, one should not preach forgiveness too quickly." However, I did it, and I felt that it was as hard for me to say it as for them to listen. Because, when violence reaches fever pitch it ends up producing its own nauseum, a little like the diver, who when about to hit bottom makes the lunge to right himself. One can hope that the time will come for a heroic turnabout when everyone will finally realize the absurdity of this indescribable and suicidal chaos that the whole country displays.

[Question] You have described as (very demanding) the vocation of the Lebanese Christians. How would you define it?

[Answer] First, they must at all costs be in the vanguard of a forgiveness that is even more difficult in that it will not always be reciprocated. Certainly, true reconciliation cannot be achieved at the expense of justice, but it goes beyond that by requiring sacrifices. In any case, it is a matter of each one challenging himself, so that the values shared by all will prevail, along with moral right, concern for truth, the sense of humanity, and true solidarity.

In this connection, I was struck by the apparent contrast between the mountain villages and some areas of what is called the "Christian redoubt," around Junieh bay. There, one can work, invest, even enjoy oneself, as if others were not living in insecurity, even deprivation. In a divided country, Caritas is trying hard to promote and strengthen solidarity among all the country's Christians.

"Shake Up" International Community

[Question] How can the Church's solidarity with the Lebanese Christians be concretely demonstrated?

[Answer] The Pope has often called for solidarity of the worldwide Church. Without it, Lebanon will not be able to survive, because its struggle is a struggle for man and his capacity to demonstrate a living together that is perhaps the most difficult in the history of mankind. The Pope even went so

far, in the public audience of 17 July, as to talk about a "joint responsibility" of Christians and Muslims of the various Mediterranean countries to save Lebanon. We must now, and without delay, find concrete expressions of this solidarity that go beyond material aid, already substantial, and that enable us to alert, to shake up if necessary, an international community that seems powerless or lacking in imagination and political courage in face of the Lebanese tragedy.

I hope that there will emerge everywhere initiatives that are not mere pronouncements of solidarity, but actions, actual steps to mobilize consciences that have been lulled too long. You have to believe in common sense and the pressure that public opinion can exert when one makes the effort to inform it seriously.

[Question] The war has produced a radicalization of the communities. Does Islamic-Christian dialogue still have any future in Lebanon?

[Answer] This future has certainly been compromised, however, it may find in its very precariousness new reasons to develop, away from all extremism, of course. One must first of all be careful not to darken the future by idealizing the past. The living together has always had its ups and downs, and too often already Lebanon has been portrayed as the "Switzerland of the Near East." The grand mufti of the republic, Sheikh Hassan Khaled, told me, and I quote: "To live together is not easy. To separate us is impossible." I also think of the Druze, today so violent toward the Christians.

It should not be forgotten that, whether allies or brother enemies, it is the Druze and the Maronites who made the Chouf the core of the Lebanese identity. Even at Jezzine, history has it that it was a Sheikh Jumblatt (Bechir) who invited the Christians to farm the land there, to the extent that Pope Pius VI wrote to thank him for having rebuilt and donated the convent of Machmuchi.

Rights of Minorities

[Question] In talking about the Lebanese Christians, can one separate religion from politics, considering that the Lebanese state is founded on sharing of functions according to community membership? You met the political leaders of the Christian community, including the commander of the Lebanese forces. How do you regard their struggle?

[Answer] You have to understand well the determination of the Lebanese Christians to defend, at any price, the uniqueness of their country based on three major affirmations: all the Arabs are not Muslim; all the Muslims are not Arab; and the Arab world is composed of Muslims and Christians. In Lebanon's destiny there is involved to some degree everywhere the status of non-Muslim minorities in an Islamicized country, where all social life is regulated in reference to the Koran.

In states like Egypt and Syria, where there are large Christian minorities, the Muslim majority only grants them limited rights, making them dependents with inferior status, "dhimmis." Lebanon's originality is that it guarantees up to the level of the state institutions the equal rights of all the

religious communities. And I hope that the great lesson derived from this long trial of war will be to enable everyone to perform an "operation truth," superceding any demographic fluctuations.

A stable peace in Lebanon depends on a new balance of forces, constitutionally guaranteed. I should add that the search for a just and lasting solution of the Near East conflict must lead to recognition of the Palestinian people's right to a homeland.

[Question] The religious leaders of the Muslim communities play a much more important political role than the leaders of the Christian communities. What could be, or should be, the role of the latter?

[Answer] What I can say is that all the Christians that I met, whether party leaders or simple believers, expect a great deal of the leaders of the Lebanese church. They are even very demanding of them, and ask to receive more and more spiritual help in the socio-political commitments. One cannot look at the Christians only from the aspect of those bearing arms, for to the Lebanese church the real problem is primarily the problem of moral resistance.

"Don't Make the Pope a Second God"

[Question] The idea of a Papal visit to Lebanon has been raised several times.

[Answer] One should not make the Pope a second God, who by his simple presence will settle everything. Peace in Lebanon will not be immediate, nor will it have anything to do with miracles. On the national level, miracles are fashioned by the people themselves and their leaders, they do not fall from the sky. Having said that, I believe that the Pope will visit these people one day. No other people in the world have received from him so many messages and gestures of solidarity.

[Question] How do you view the future of the Christians in Lebanon?

[Answer] I think about what a young girl in Saidoun, near Jezzine, said to me: "We are a people who have only have prayer." One can hope everything for a people who are reduced to depending only on God, and who have the grace to experience Him; everything, starting with their own resurrection.

9920

CSO: 4419/13

OMAN

BRIEFS

TRADE WITH ROK--Muscat, 31 Aug (WAKH)--Oman's imports from the ROK during 1984 totalled 6,453,000 Omani riyals, which is six times the total for 1976. Exports to the ROK totaled 4,393,000 Omani riyals for the same period, according to a report by the Omani Ministry of Industry and Commerce. [Summary] [Manama WAKH in Arabic 1045 GMT 31 Aug 85 GF]

OIL DRILLING PROGRAM--Muscat, 31 Aug (WAKH)--An official source at the Omani Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources stated that the oil drilling program in Oman has realized great success, as the oil reserve of Oman has risen to 4 billion barrels, as opposed to 2.5 billion barrels in 1983. The source noted that recent discoveries in Oman allowed daily production to increase to 416,000 barrels by the end of 1984, an increase of 27,000 barrels over average production in 1983. The source expects production to reach 450,000 barrels per day during the first half of the third 5-year plan of 1986-1990, and to reach 500,000 barrels during the second half of the plan. It is worth mentioning that the oil drilling program is part of the second 5-year plan, which will conclude at the end of this year. [Text] [Manama WAKH in Arabic 1455 GMT 31 Aug 85 GF]

NEW EGYPTIAN, YAR, U.S. ENVOYS--Yusuf ibn al-'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, received the credentials of Fathallah al-Dal'i; Muhsin 'Ali al-'Akwa', and George Montgomery as new Egyptian, YAR, and U.S. ambassadors, respectively, to the Sultanate of Oman. [Excerpt] [Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 10 Sep 85 GF]

CSO: 4400/256

AFGHANISTAN

ACTIVITIES OF THE DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

Kabul HEYWAD in Dari 8 Jul 85 p 4

[Text] The membership of the Women's Democratic Organization of Afghanistan is increasing daily in cities and villages and the free women of our country are mobilizing around this organization with revolutionary fervor.

A source connected with the provincial council of the Women's Democratic Organization of Herat Province said, "At present in Herat Province, 1,215 women are mobilized in the ranks of the provincial council of the Women's Democratic Organization of Afghanistan. Last year, in honor of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic Khalq Party of Afghanistan, 200 women had the honor of joining the Women's Democratic Organization of Herat Province."

The source said, "Useful and socially productive activities take place in the provincial council of the Women's Democratic Party of Herat Province. Three hundred fifty women of this province are enrolled in 32 literacy courses arranged by the provincial council of the Women's Democratic Organization. Through its classes in sewing, carpet weaving, typing, and make-up, the Women's Club of Herat is playing an important part in developing the aptitude of the women of that province and in getting them involved in socially productive activity."

The women of Herat Province are fulfilling efficiently their roles in the defense of the revolution. At present, 200 fighting women of Herat Province are enrolled in the group of the defenders of the revolution; 12 women of Herat are serving their country and nation as soldiers of the revolution.

The source added, "The women of Herat Province consider the convening of the historic Loya Jirga, the parliament, of the people of Afghanistan a definite social event and are sincerely endeavoring to carry out the decisions and plans of the organized learned men of that body."

9863

CSO: 4665/124

AFGHANISTAN

GOVERNMENT PROJECTS FACILITATE ACCESS TO WATER

Kabul HEYWAD in Dari 11 Jul 85 p 1

[Text] The improvement, repair, and cleaning of the agricultural canal of the village of Kariz connected with the city of Lashkargah, the center of Helmand Province, which was begun in the month of Jedi last year utilizing human labor and machinery is now 90 percent completed. The work is being done under the restoration project of the Chah Anjir construction company of the province and is being supervised by the Irrigation Department of Helmand.

A source connected with the Irrigation Department of that province said, "This canal, the dam head of which has separated from Helmand River, is 8 kilometers long and can irrigate 3,000 acres of agricultural land. The canal is situated on the left extension of the course of Helmand River, and in places is dug underground like a sewer. The canal has suffered neglect over the last 30 years because past corrupt governments paid no attention to it and the peasants did not have the money to make the repairs. The canal is broken and carries only a small amount of water. At its head, the canal would contain 250 liters of water but only 25 liters would reach agricultural land at its far end.

"Parts of the right-hand section of the canal which were destroyed in past years as a result of the flooding of Helmand River have been repaired and fortified with stone blocks, concrete bricks, cement and gravel. Large rocks which had rolled into the canal in places were removed by crane. The cleaning of the canal undertaken by the construction company of Chah Anjir is now 90 percent complete."

The source added, "The government has so far spent 4 million afghanis of its budget on the repair of the canal. When the work is completed in the near future, the canal will carry 600 liters of water and irrigate 30,000 acres of land properly and render the land fertile. The problems of the farmers of Helmand will thus be solved."

Abdul Qayum, a farmer of the village said, "My cousin and I have 14 acres of land on the Kariz Canal, but because of insufficient water over the past 30 years we have not benefited from our land. For those farmers who sowed seed on their land in the hopes of receiving a small amount of water, even flood or rain could not recover the amount they sowed. The farmers of the village asked the governments of the pre-revolutionary period for help in repairing the canal, but those governments were interested only in taxes and paid no attention to the complaints of the peasants."

Abdul Qayum added, "The Khalq Party of Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan who represent the interests of the workers and peasants of the country have given us every kind of material and technical help."

AFGHANISTAN

OVER TWO MILLION VILLAGERS SUPPLIED WITH SAFE WATER

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 25 Jul 85 pp 1-2

[Text] Our compatriots, may they be in the city or in remotest villages and towns, enjoy ever more the benefits of April Revolution. One of such benefits is hygienic water supplied for the rural residents of the country.

The state of the DRA has attached a special importance to this basic need of the honourable residents of the country during the current Afghan year (begun March 21, 1985), and has allocated over 30 million Afghanis for digging deep wells.

The Water Supply Department for Rural Areas, which is responsible for supplying hygienic water to the country's rural areas, where the overwhelming majority of the population of our homeland live, had started its activities on areas not included in the city master plan. This Department by identifying the most needy masses of the country, supplies hygienic water to them.

The President of the Water Supply Department for Rural Areas, granting an interview to our correspondent said: "The Department has been able to supply hygienic water so far to over two million rural people living in different parts of the country. It has also played an outstanding role in supplying hygienic water to schools, kindergartens, mosques and holy places.

"In 1363 HS (last Afghan year), the activities of our department continued in Kabul, Gaghlan, Balkh, Badakhshan, Takhar, Farah, Nimroz, Orozgan, Zabul and Konar provinces. And, the total number of people, who have found the opportunity to benefit from hygienic water, reached to 230,000.

"The department has envisaged to carry on its work in villages and towns of different provinces of the country, particularly that of Herat, Kandahar, Farah, Nimroz, Helmand, Paktia, Paktika, Nangarhar, Konar and Fariab provinces and Khost division in order to remove the problems of shortage of hygienic water of the rural people living in the said localities.

As many as 27 manual water pumps will be installed and put into operation in different districts of Nangarhar and Konar provinces. Likewise, 30 such water pumps are also planned to be put into operation in different localities of Baghlan and Balkh provinces. This way, the total number of these manual water pumps, which will be installed throughout the country, will be 120.

"This way, a number of deep wells will be dug along traditional routes of nomads, and water pumps will be also installed on these wells. These wells will solve the water problem of the country's nomads and their animals. One of the main projects of digging deep wells is under way presently in Herat province. Engineer Halim, the head of the drilling group in Herat Province said: "According to the envisaged plan, three deep wells would be dug and put for utilization in Ishaq Sulaiman, Char Rig and Kalata Nazarkhan villages in the course of the current Afghan year. Out of these, an 81-metre deep, well was dug in Ishaq Sulaiman village. Villagers render all-sided cooperation to the groups in their drilling work."

According to Engineer Halim, the villagers of Ishaq Sulaiman of Injil district, located 15 km to the west of Herat city, provided transport for the transfer of all machinery and drilling tools to their villages. They render all-sided cooperation to the workers and technicians of the department in ensuring security, and in supplying boarding and lodging facilities.

Mohamman Nohman, head of drilling work group in Spinboldak said: "The Water Supply Department for Rural Areas has resolved to supply, in the course of the current Afghan year hygienic water to the residents of different villages of Spinboldak district, particularly, tho those, who live on deserts having no water. For instance, so far two wells with a depth of 150 metres each, have been dug for the residents of Wilish village. These wells are being used by the villagers. Likewise, deep wells will be dug, till the end of the current Afghan year, in the villages of Boldakan, Haji Soraki, Konchi villages located 50 km to the west of Spinboldak district, as well as in Zaragul and other villages".

The digging of deep wells in Gardiz city and Sayed Karam district of Paktia Province, in Sharan city, centre of Paktika Province and the Matakhel and Shakhel districts and in Khost division, Fariab and Farah provinces have also been included in the plan for the current Afghan year. Drilling work of some of these wells have either been completed or is under way.

With the expansion of the afore-mentioned activities, the communicable diseases such as cholera, typhus, tuberculosis, etc. will not threaten our compatriots due to the shortage of water any more, and our compatriots living in rural areas, will not have to go long ways for bringing water.

CSO: 4600/632

AFGHANISTAN

COOPERATION TURNING DESERT INTO INDUSTRIAL SITE

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 1 Aug 85 p 1

[Text] When I was getting close to the Khirkhana Pass, I found the 'Dasht-i-Chamtala' (Chamtala Desert) more plain. While passing through the desert, I recalled the time when it had been a real desert and there had existed no settlements at all. But, it is not so any more.

Chamtala has its face now and promises good tidings and flourishing and development. New establishments and hangars change the face of the desert itself into an industrial site.

The station complex of project No. 1 of the services of petroleum products transport built on an area of 14 hectares of land of the desert, attracts the attention of any passenger. This complex, which has been completed and commissioned recently, is considered one of the important constructions of the country. It is busy with repairing of transport vehicles.

This transport project, which is certainly effective and used in the transportation of petroleum products for meeting the needs of Kabul City, is another embodiment of the great Afghan-Soviet friendship. The Soviet Union has been rendering, for the last half a century, all-sided and unprecedented assistance in all economic and technical spheres of our country. So far 99 projects have been commissioned or are under construction in Afghanistan with the cooperation of the Soviet Union.

According to a report of the Planning Department of the Ministry of Public Works, the constructional work of this project began in 1981 according to a protocol concluded between the Ministry of Commerce and the Banaie Construction Unit of the Ministry of Public Works. The expenditure of its construction is over 1,006,910,000 clearing dollars of which 6,910,000 dollars are financed from the assistance of the Soviet Union.

Ghulam Mohayuddin, acting President for Petroleum Products Transport, said "The constructional work of the project has been carried out by workers and engineers of the Banaie Construction Unit, while the project-making documents and drawings have been designed and completed by the skilled experts of Kip-Auto-Trans Institution of the Soviet Union. Tens of thousands of metres of power network, drainage and water supply systems are included in the project.

"The total volume of construction covers 196,567 cubic metres. The complex would have hangars for repair and transport services, two-storeyed residential establishment, an administrative building, establishments for the distribution of petroleum products, refinery chamber, water reservoir, a stem chamber, a tranformer building, asphalted parking lots for 300 tankers and a kitchen. Poultry farms and a township of workers are also included in the extenison activities of the project.

Over 120 outstanding engineers of the country along with the workers are working in this project in the repair of transport vehicles and in preparing equipment and tools. Currently, the project for the services of petroleum products is vastly being used.

"The creative and active workers of the transport department, who are working in Chamtala Desert, have endeavoured day and night to accomplish their tasks and to sincerely take part in repairing transport vhiicles aimed at preventing the stagnation in transporting petroleum products. Similarly, the workers and employees of this department have built a poultry project within the compelx. So far, 300 fowls have been sold to the workers at lower prices."

I wanted to have a talk with one of the workers of the technical section. Mohammad Yaqub, the head mechanic of the engine controlling shop, who was repairing an engine along with other workers, said: "The need for building such a technical project for petroleum products transport equipped with all necessary means, had been felt since a long. Fortunately, to maintain the transport of petroleum products theme project No. 1 of the petroleum based transport has been built at a proper time with the cooperation of friendly neighbour the Soviet Union. This project repairs all transport means, which would develop technical faults without such repair and maintenance.

The future plan of the Project for Petroleum-based Transport has been explained as follow by the acting Vice-President of the project: "In order to provide workers and employees of this institution with shelter, the construction of future projects of the complex has been envisaged. These projects will also be built in Chamtala Desert. The workers' townships will also be built in the near future. A school and a kindergarten will also be built beside the residential area."

CSO: 4300/632

AFGHANISTAN

YOUTH RECEIVE TECHNICAL PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 29 Jul 85 pp 1-2

[Text] The bell was ringing for the third teaching class when we entered the compound of the Workers's School of the Housing Construction Complex. While passing through the long corridor having wall papers and stand boards on both sides, I meet a young teacher, who introduces himself as Ahmad Shah Sakhizai. I express my wish to see the teaching proceedings in classrooms before by talk with the Principal of the school.

Guided by the Amhad Shah, I observe the teaching proceedings and have a talk with young students, who, are busy with more seriousness in learning ever more professional and technical knowledge.

Wahab, a young student of the School, who apart from learning theoretical and practical lessons, has endeavoured a lot in learning calligraphy, and who wrote elegantly quotations from the Charter of the Armed Forces in the military room says: "The establishment of technical and professional schools in considered a positive and valuable step in training cadres for the growing of national economy.

"Hundred of country's youth learn technical and professional knowledge at such centres, and are presented to the society with ever-more scientific accumulations."

Hehayatullah, a young worker and a student of the school, who has been able to overfulfil the envisaged production plan and who won the honour to participate in the 12th World Festival of Youth and Students in Moscow, refering to his tour to Moscow, said: "To go to the Soviet Union, to see the life of friends, who hurried to help us in most difficult conditions, is interesting and exciting for me. The possiblty of going to the Soviet Union provided for a person like me, who was born in a family of toilers, and who had always had bitterness from the life, reveals ever more the popular essence of the party and the state. From the past I can recall only grief, poverty, diseases and thousands of other unresolved problems. I lost my father many years ago. But, today I feel in my life the kind of care of the party and the state."

The Principal of the School notes with satisfaction the interests of students in their studies. Elucidating on the establishment of the School and its

teaching methods, the Principal says: "The Professional School of the Housing Construction Complex was established in August 1983. The school had 70 students when it started its functioning. Currently the school has 180 students. Youngsters, who have studies till sixth to ninth grades, and whose age is not less than 15, are enrolled in the fields of electro-montage, crane-operation and repair of construction machines. In addition to the said subjects, foreign languages, subjects of sociology, physical training, religious science, and military-patriotic lessons are taught at the School. The teaching time is fixed. We have theoretical and practical lessons. Since the School is under the patronage of the Housing Construction Complex, therefore, the lunch is provided for the students and other personnel of the School by the Complex. The school has party organisation, youth organisation and the trade union. Most of the students have the honour of being the members of the said organisations.

"Twenty-nine Afghan teachers and Soviet experts run the teaching of both theoretical and practical subjects. The students of the School receive the salary of a 10th grade worker when they work on their practical lessons in the shops of the Complex after their one-year study at School. Making use of the workers' scholarship, four best students have been sent to the Soviet Union for accumulating even more scientific experience. Similarly, it has been planned to send again to the Soviet Union those assistant engineers who by making use of workers' scholarships, had studied in the Soviet Union, for continuing their education. The school has turned out 88 graduates in 1984. These graduates have been employed by the Housing Construction Complex.

"When the need arises, the students of the School apply with their health problems to the health clinic of the Complex and the Wazir Akbar Khan Hospital.

"The education period differs according to different subjects. For instance, the period for the subject of electro-montage is two years, while it takes one year in a half for subject of crane operation and repairs of construction machines," The Principal concludes.

I leave the school when the bell rings for the class interval. While leaving the School, I see once again the students, these young workers, who endeavour from now on for building a new society. I see that their faces are the testimony to the fact that the Revolution has given them a real life and great gift. They have well realised that due to the care of the Revolutionary party and state the living conditions of workers have enhanced far better than it was yesterday.

CSO: 4600/631

AFGHANISTAN

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BOASTS ADVANCES IN EDUCATION

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English Aug 85 p 2

[Text] The new education system has proclaimed equality in the learning of science and knowledge for all citizens of the country without racial, linguistic, sexual, or religious discrimination and regardless of their social position. And, thus, the educational process is being rapidly developed and improved on the basis of scientifically compiled plans. The Ministry of Education of the DRA, taking into account the directives of the resolutions of the Central Committee of the PDPA and the Decrees of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, has specified the direction of its work, and put into effect concrete proposals aimed at strengthening the material and cultural basis of education. In less than two years, the number of schools has increased from 959 to 1,086. During the same period, 254 schools, destroyed by the counter-revolution, have either been repaired or rebuilt at a total cost of 187 million Afghanis.

The number of students, attending the primary and general schools, has reached to 646,000.

Taking into consideration the objective and subjective conditions in the country, the compulsory country-wide primary education covers a period of five years. This period lays the basis for the logical and scientific learning of children in their future studies.

Teaching in elementary schools is conducted with simple and comprehensive methods. The class teachers is responsible for the teaching of all subjects, and the number of teaching hours has been fixed at 26-29 hours per week. At the end of the elementary stage, the students should be able to read, write and carry out the four fundamental operations of mathematics, and to have a basic knowledge of environmental studies.

Compulsory country-wide primary education is regarded as one of the education principles of the DRA. This will also meet the requirements of the new economic, social and cultural system of the country, and help the realisation of the long-cherished aspirations of the toiling masses for education constitutes the main part of the accomplishments of the Ministry of education of the DRA in directing the education in the country. And, the evaluation made on the results of the development of the educational system by the

Politburo of the PDPA CC and the Council of Ministers of the DRA, have specified the main aspects of work.

It is stated in the first item of the joint resolutions of the Politburo of the PDPA CC and the Council of Ministers of the DRA: "the Ministry of Education, social organisations and the local organs of state power and administration are obliged to pave the way for the growth of compulsory country-wide primary education, and to make serious efforts towards the transition to a new system and content of education. The provincial party committees, local organs of state power and administration, along with the education department of the provinces are obliged to work out concrete plans on the development of the education system in all provinces, cities and districts of the country. This will be achieved through practical measures for the transition to the new system and content of education and through the coordination of educational activities in schools and lycees of the country in the course of the current Afghan year (begun March 21, 1985). On the basis of these plans, they must pay serious attention to the strengthening of the material and technical basis of schools and to the creation of normal and favourable conditions for the education and rearing of children.

The party committees ought to strive for the further strengthening of cooperation among social organisations, state organs institutions of workers' collectives and units and regiments of the armed forces and for the balanced growth of education in the country.

"Conscious serious and purposeful attention should be paid, first of all, to the enrollment of the children of working people and to the improvement and expansion of education among the tribes and nationalities of the country".

"The correct, concrete and accurate utilisation of the directives accelerates the educational process in the country, and trains young cadres to implement the revolutionary changes for overcoming economic backwardness and achieving cultural development in the country.

CSO: 4600/631

4 October 1985

AFGHANISTAN

BRIEFS

CANNING PLANT INCREASES ACTIVITIES--The canning plant in Jalalabad that opened last year is now producing and marketing pickled vegetables of all kinds as a sideline in addition to its basic production of olive oil. A source connected with the plant said that as a result of the innovation of the plant employees, in the first quarter of this year 35,000 bottles of cucumber pickles, 20,000 bottles of black eggplant, 15,000 bottles of Italian eggplant, 1,900 bottles of orange juice and 30,000 bottles of olives were produced in the plant and sent to markets in Jalalabad and Kabul for public consumption. The source added that the plant was built with the technical help of our friend, the USSR. It has a production capacity of 8,000 tons of canned olives and olive oil annually. It was constructed in the area of Hede farm under the Nangarhar Valley development project. At present it can produce 2,000 tons of canned olives and 2,000 tons of black olives for oil extraction. Currently the plant employs 600 workers and employees. [Text] [Kabul HEYWAD in Dari 2 Jul 85 p 4] 9863

CSO: 4665/124

BANGLADESH

COMMENT ON DHAKA ELECTION TO UN PRESIDENCY

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 5 Sep 85 pp 1, 8

[Article by Shamsul Huq Zahid]

[Text] Bangladesh which is scheduled to take over the presidency of the 41st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September 1986 will continue its efforts for the promotion of peace, security, cooperation and development.

Diplomatic observers in Dhaka consider the unanimous endorsement of Bangladesh's candidature for the UNGA presidency by the Asian Group as a tribute to a moderate, pragmatic and forward looking country.

A Foreign Office source said that as the President of the 41st session of UNGA, the primary objective of Bangladesh would be to promote a consensus on development between the developed and the developing countries.

Sources said that Bangladesh would make special efforts in promoting disarmament which would be high on the agenda of the UNGA 41st session. Bangladesh was promoting disarmament with the objective of securing resources for meaningful use of developing and developed countries, thereby reducing "universal social opportunity cost."

The Asian Group's unanimous endorsement of Bangladesh's candidature for the high office of UNGA, diplomatic sources observe, was yet another demonstration of the international community's trust and confidence reposed in it, was also a vindication of the successes of the dynamic, progressive, balanced and constructive foreign policy pursued under the directive of President H.M. Ershad.

The Asian Group, while endorsing the Bangladesh candidate, Foreign Minister Mr Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury for UNGA presidency, spoke in very high terms about his personal and professional qualities.

Bangladesh became member of all the UN agencies before it received membership of the UN. And ever since becoming a member of the UN in 1974, it has been playing an active constructive and forward looking role in the world body. As a recognition to this, Bangladesh was

elected to one of the non-permanent seats of the Security Council in 1978.

Bangladesh has always been in the forefront of any international initiative to resolve the problem of Palestine and the Middle East, as well as the conflict in the Gulf. She also extended total support to the independence movement of Namibia under the leadership of SWAPO.

In the economic field as well, Bangladesh as the Chairman of the Group of 77 took initiative to promote consensus between the North and the South.

CSO: 4600/1731

BANGLADESH

ERSHAD SPEECH AT 9 SEP MASS MEETING REPORTED

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 10 Sep 95 pp 1, 8

[Text] Tangail, Sept 9--President Hussain Muhammad Ershad said here today that politics would have no bearing on the society and have little meaning to the people if it is not directed toward economic uplift of the masses especially the workers and peasants who were subjected to neglect and deprivation in the past, reports BSS.

He said politics of slogans and social agitation was nothing but bluffing the people, as it had been proved that such negative tendency could only give rise to social indiscipline and create hindrance in economic development.

The President was addressing a mammoth public meeting at the local stadium. The meeting was also addressed by the L.G.R.D. and Cooperatives Minister Major General Mahmudul Hasan and the Chairman of the Tangail Pourashava.

Education Minister Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, Deputy Minister for Education Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu ZMLA, Zone 'A' Major General K.M. Abdul Wahed were present.

President Ershad said politics is always a weapon to accomplish welfare of the common man. Specially in a newly-born developing country like ours politics should have the foremost objective of putting in hard work to ensure basic necessities to the people, he said.

He called upon the political parties to arrive at a national consensus to promote national unity and unitedly endeavour for national economic uplift brushing aside petty interest and differences. He said the nation is nothing but an extended family and all should work with that spirit towards achieving economic development.

The President said all of us should also bear in mind that there is no scope for us as a nation to waste time any more but to strive to make the independence meaningful to all.

The President said people of the country who shed their blood for the independence want to see that the country prosper and at the same time their fate improves. They want to live in peace. They have discarded politics of violence and confusion and this was proved in the last upazila elections and referendum.

Turning to national elections, President Ershad reiterated that his Government wanted to establish healthy politics in the country and with that end in view the national elections will be held. He called upon the political parties to come forward for participating in the national elections to pave the way for constructive political institution in the country. Pointing to the political parties he said they should go to the people with their programme and policies and if the people voted for them then they can form government to work for them.

In this context the President referred to the upazila system and said that this has ushered in a new vista in the socio-economic arena as it has not only ensured people's direct participation in administration but also given a direction for equal distribution of national resources for balanced development of all areas.

President Ershad said this local government institution will further be strengthened to make it a more effective decentralised body of the administration.

The President referred to the statement of Dhaka University Vice Chancellor that vandalism would be done away with from the university premises and said: "I welcome such statement and hope all the Vice Chancellors will come forward to ensure a proper educational atmosphere in their institutions."

He said that the students must not involve themselves in politics and thus cause harm to their career. They could have enough time for politics after completion of their academic life.

He advised students to engage themselves in the pursuit of knowledge with an undivided mind. You are to prepare yourselves as worthy citizens to take up responsibilities from us and at the same time live up to the hopes pinned on you by your parents and the nation.

President Ershad announced a grant of Taka 30 lakh for improving civic amenities in the Tangail Pourashava. Taka 15 lakh for the development of the educational institutions and Taka two lakh for completion of the memorial tower dedicated to the memory the martyred freedom fighters, the tower is being built by the local unit of the freedom fighters.

CSO: 4600/1737

BANGLADESH

PAPERS REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS IN BNP

Reorganization Planned

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 25 Aug 85 pp 1, 8

[Article by Tahmina Ahmad]

[Text] Reorganisation of the BNP following recent desertions will start in earnest from 1st September next. A decision to rebuild the party on the basis of the principles it upholds, namely democracy, Bangladeshi nationalism and mixed economy, was taken at a meeting held at Shyamoli, Dhaka with all leaders from upazilla upward attending.

An elaborate programme has been planned near former President Ziaur Rahman's grave on the day which is the founding day of the party. Members of the standing committee, steering committee and executive committee will be named at this gathering of party officials and leaders. The future political programme of the BNP will also be announced on the occasion.

Party leaders maintain that the BNP has emerged stronger and more viable than before from the desertions by what they called opportunist elements. "It's stronger now," said party chairman Begum Khaleda Zia, while talking with Holiday.

She said: "Unfaithful persons have been weeded out from the party. Now there will be no obstruction in following the party principles and ideology. On the other hand, new faces may join us. In fact, five other parties have approached us to join our alliance. But we have to carefully think about it. We don't want to be the stepping stone for opportunists. Only those who are imbued with ideological principles will be taken in."

Begum Zia dismissed President Ershad's comment that opposition parties would be the losers if they don't take the lesson from the last two elections-- referendum and upazilla election, saying, "The turnout in both referendum and upazilla elections was only around 5 percent. If 95 percent of the 5 percent give their verdict in favour of President Ershad, it does speak much of the elections. The majority of the people abstained from voting, for they were with us."

Fundamental human rights, she said, are our basic rights and added that no one had the right to take them away from us. We believe heart and soul in free and fair elections. We also believe that parliamentary elections should be held immediately to return fundamental rights to us," she said.

Begum Zia put it firmly that she was not in a course of personal vendetta against any individual. "I believe in the reinstalling of political institutions on the basis of democratic principles," she said.

Mirza Golam Hafiz, a prominent leader of the party, said: "It is 41 months since the present regime came to power and nowhere are we any closer to attaining our basic human rights, although the UN charter specifically states these as part of our fundamental rights."

He said all the three grounds on which power was seized from an elected administration--corruption, weakening of the law enforcing agencies and high prices of essentials--are very much present." Inclusion of a large number of former BNP ministers in the present cabinet and the likely inclusion of some more in the future present a very paradoxical situation indeed," he commented.

Zia Founder's Day Remarks

Dhaka THE NEW NATION inEnglish 2 Sep 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Begum Khaleda Zia, chief of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) yesterday demanded immediate restoration of political rights failing which, she said, people would think otherwise to get their rights realised.

She was presiding over a discussion meeting at the Shishu Academy auditorium organised by the party cultural front Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha yesterday evening to mark the seventh anniversary of the founding of BNP.

The discussion meeting was also addressed by party leader Prof A.Q.M. Badruddoza Chowhury, Mirza Golam Hafiz, S.A. Bari A.T., K.M. Obaidur Rahman, Saifur Rahman, Lt Col (retd) Akbar Hossain, Chowdhury Tanvir Ahmed Siddiquin Kazi Gholam Mahbub Afazuddin Fakir, Brigadier (Retd) Shah Abdul Hannan Fedous Ahmed Qureshi Lt Col (Retd) Oil Ahmed Shamsuzzaman of the student front, Rezabuddowlah Chowdhury of the cultural front, Gawashwar Chandra Roy of the youth front, Kasimuddin of the labour front and Begum Ahsanullah of the women's front.

Prior to the discussion meeting which was followed by a cultural session wreaths were placed and fateha was offered at the grave of late President Ziaur Rahman, founder-chairman of the party.

The day was also observed by two other factions of BNP--one led by former prime minister Shah Azizur Rahman and the other with Khalequzzaman as the head.

4 October 1985

The Shuh Aziz faction held a milad mahfil at the party's central office and later went to the grave of Ziaur Rahman to lay wreaths and offer fateha among others. Party Secretary general Mayeedul Islam, Badul Aleem and Maj (retd) Afsaruddin were present.

Addressing the Shishu Academy auditorium meeting which appeared to be a showdown by Khaleda Zia in the wake of a recent split in the party, Begum Zia said nobody deserted her party. She said party leaders and workers ousted a section of people engaged in anti-organisational activities. She said, by this the party was further strengthened.

She said the present government accused the previous government of all evils but it itself is composed of people of the previous government.

Commenting on the absence of political rights she said a double standard was prevailing in the country. Certain powerful quarters were doing politice and meeting people while the political parties and the people were deprived of the right, she said, so long such a standard would be maintained peace would never be established.

Talking about the economy she said farmers were not getting fair price of their produces, the weavers were not getting fair price of their fabrics and industries were facing closure and smuggling was increasing day by day. She said the crimes hijack, murder, rape and repression of woman now rampant in the country were the reflection of the frustration in the society created by unemployment, economic hardship and other causes. She said the restoration rights and establishment of rule of law can bring back law and order in the society. She alleged that the present regime was at rain of elections and that was why it was delaying elections.

She also demanded immediate release of all which primers. [as published]

Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury said six out of seven living signatories to the manifesto of the BNP were with Khaleda Zia. He said BNP was still an unbeaten political party winning all the three elections. He said during the rule of BNP the party dominated the government and the government never dictated the party activities.

He called upon the party leadership to come forward with an open heart to make room for the younger generation in the party leadership.

Party Factions Discussed

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 6 Sep 85 pp 1, 8

[Article by Tahmina Ahmad]

[Text] Although the BNP founding day was celebrated with a great splash names of the working and standing committee members were not announced as earlier indicated. Party insiders said that Begum Khaleda Zia was taking her own time over it engrossed in the delicate act of balancing the differ-

ent pressure groups within her party. Pressures from too many candidates for the party's top posts have delayed the announcement of the nominated office-bearers of the party. The party Chairman is still busy seeking the party consensus and also individual consensus on the nominations.

Credibility, integrity and loyalty are the three ingrained qualities that the Chairman is looking for in her selection of the top party leaders. The actual crisis is not in the workers of the party but in the changing leadership, pointed out labor front leader of the party Kasimuddin Ahmed. In fact a large portion of the time and energy of the top leaders of BNP is being spent in identifying and keeping a close watch on people on the fences. The party leadership feels that this brand of people who use party credentials to negotiate with the government and ultimately desert the party should not be given any key positions in the party.

Just released BNP leader Obaidur Rahman is one of the key contenders for the post of secretary general of the party. Party insiders say that since his credentials lack the credibility, the Chairman is seeking for such a top job, he may be retained in some other capacity in the party. Some party members claim that he has liaison with other parties also and has not established his identity with the new emerging leaders within the party.

Dr Budruddoja Chowdhury, the Secretary-General of the party, is out of party grace. This left leading liberal was the man who persuaded Begum Khaleda Zia not to participate in the elections. The new blood comprising mainly of the new faces inducted to the party and to politics by the late President Zia and who are now dominating the party scene are totally tuned into the holding of elections even under a limited martial law rule. "We need an assurance from President Ershad for a free and fair polls," said the Chairman, echoing the sentiments of this faction.

Homogenous Party

Right now with the contending groups out either through defection or weeding the BNP is in the process of changing its image of a front of heterogeneous elements and taking on the shape of a genuine political party, a homogeneous party with different pressure groups like in any other party. Although the defections removed a strong force within the party it also removed with it the force unwilling to submit to organizational discipline. This desertion has also thrown out group politics and the different constituents of the party one more unified presently.

Mirza Gholan Hafiz, who has already emerged as one of the leading stalwart of the party only next to Begum Khaleda Zia is certain to get the nomination for Vice Chairmanship of the party. Four other vice chairmen from the four districts of the country would be nominated. Ex M.P. Farida Rahman who was angling for the prestigious vice chairmanship has the possibility of being in the working committee of the party.

Military Faction

The military faction in the party has a tight-lipped attitude towards the nomination. BNP started as the party of the armed forces with retired colonels and generals taking the lead. General Shishu, the main man behind the launching of the party is keeping a very low profile. "We want to revive the party. It is time we had some action," he said. Others like Major General Majedul Huq and Col Mustafizur Rahman were at one stage considered the link between Begum Zia and big guns in the corridors of power. But over the months events have proved that they are the links between Begum Zia and nobody else. They are also candidates of party nominations-- although they are lying low.

Begum Khaleda Zia was non-committal about the party nominations. She said: "We will most certainly announce the names in a week's time especially since the President is on the verge of announcing the date of lifting of ban on political activities. However it is difficult to gauge what he means by indoor politics. But we want open politics where the fundamental rights of the people and the freedom of the press are restored." However there are definite indications that the party leaders are thinking of nominating the Secretary General from among those young persons who have actively worked for the party politics during the crucial period of the five point movement and later during the defection spree in the party.

Begum Khaleda Zia will find it difficult to find a non-controversial person for the party's prestigious post of Secretary General. A common bet amongst the party insiders is that the party Secretary-General may altogether be one of those lawyers who would not leave Begum Khaleda Zia even for the prime ministership in the present cabinet.

CSO: 4600/1733

BANGLADESH

FOREIGN MINISTER'S 10 SEP PRESS CONFERENCE REPORTED

Border Problems Discussed

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 11 Sep 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Foreign Minister Mr Humayun Rasheed Choudhury on Tuesday reiterated that there was no Bangladeshi infiltrators in any part of India including Assam.

The Foreign Minister was giving his reaction when his attention was drawn to the reported statement by Chief Minister of Assam at a Press conference on Tuesday. He said that "we are not aware of the existence of Bangladeshi in Assam" and added even former Indian Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi stated in the Parliament in 1972 that all the Bangladeshi refugees had gone back.

Bangladesh, he said, had asked for the official text of the press statement of the Assam Chief Minister Hiteswhar Saikiat from the Government of India, he said, adding if the position of the Assam State Government of was the same "we could answer you," he said.

We take cognizance of the Assam Chief Minister but we have to consider what the Government of India says," the Foreign Minister told a questioner.

He said, "in dealing with foreign countries we do not base our actions on newspaper reports."

Replying to the claim made by Mr Saikia that 190 lakh people had been pushed by India into Bangladesh between 1971 and 1980 Mr Chowdhury said that the Home Ministry could answer the question.

"We are awaiting the full text of the speech of Mr Saikla from the Government of India," he said.

He expressed the hope that the views of the Government of India would be different from those of the provincial government of Assam with regard to pushing some people into Bangladesh.

"Unless the Government of India is in agreement with the government in Assam I can't answer you the Foreign Minister said, answering to whether the relations between the two countries would be further complicated and irritated if India pushed some people into Bangladesh as Mr Saikia wanted to do.

"We are on the alert. We asked the Government agencies to be on the alert," he told a questioner.

BSF

About the reported heavy deployment of the Border Security Forces by India along its border with Bangladesh, the Foreign Minister said, "the government asked the concerned agencies to find out the facts. We are awaiting their reports."

"As to how we will react I am not going to tell you now," the Foreign Minister said.

Meanwhile a Foreign Office spokesman in a statement categorically denied the presence of any Bangladeshi in the northeastern Indian province of Assam.

He was commenting on a Silchar datelined news item circulated by an Indian news agency quoting the Assam Chief Minister Hiteswar Saikia as saying that Assam Government was firm on pushing back all post-1971 infiltrators and their children in Assam to Bangladesh.

The spokesman said that the Foreign Office asked for the authentic text of the Chief Minister's statement from the Government of India and the Foreign Office was awaiting its receipt.

In reply to a question Foreign Minister indicated that Bangladesh was unlikely to raise any bilateral issue with India at the forthcoming UN General Assembly session.

Ganges

Answering question at a press conference, the Foreign Minister said that bilateral issues including the Ganges sharing problem were under negotiations within India marked by "forward movements."

Mr Chowdhury said that bilateral problems between member-countries were raised at the UN only when they fail to resolve them through negotiations.

The Foreign Minister however, said that Bangladesh would keep the world informed about the development.

Mr Chowdhury said he would discuss bilateral and multilateral issues with his counterparts in the neighbouring countries during his stay in New York for attending the General Assembly session.

Image

He told a questioner that due to the "dynamic leadership" of President and CMLA Lt Gen H.M. Ershad "the image of Bangladesh had gone up internationally" and it helped make a forward movement in resolving the outstanding problems with neighbouring India.

The Foreign Minister said that he could not predict the outcome of the Farakka negotiations but said "I could tell you that there should be a permanent sharing solution to the Ganges problem."

Tin Bigha

Answering question on the transfer of Tin Bigha, the Foreign Minister said that India had assured Bangladesh that the issue was in final state of settlement. India was expected to implement the agreement in this regard within a short time, he hoped.

He told another questioner that India was committed in written to the joint survey to determine the ownership of South Talpatty Island.

About maritime boundary the Foreign Minister said that Bangladesh would discuss the question of determination of their maritime boundary with Burma in the near future.

Maritime Issue

He, however, told a questioner that the maritime issue was not discussed between Bangladesh and India in the recent past.

The Foreign Minister said "We have to be fully prepared for it. We are collecting facts from various government. We are at it."

Additional Foreign Secretary Ambassador Kaiser Morshed said that Bangladesh would have to reassess its position keeping in view the new provisions in the Law of the Sea Treaty which was signed by 120 countries including Bangladesh.

He said that so far 22 nations have ratified the treaty and added at least 60 nations were needed to ratify it to put it in force.

Ambassador Morshed said that the question of maritime boundary was on a new plane now.

Mr Morshed said Bangladesh was preparing for the negotiations.

Help Against Disasters

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 11 Sep 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Foreign Minister Mr Humayun Rasheed Choudhury on Tuesday said that Bangladesh would table a resolution at the 40th General Assembly session of the United Nations appealing to the member countries and international organisations to help it find a permanent integrated solution to the problems of natural disasters.

Mr Choudhury who will attend the three-month General Assembly session in New York beginning September 17 addressing a press conference, said the Government of Bangladesh felt that "international efforts were needed to protect our people from the adverse consequences of the natural calamities."

The Government, he said, had been taking all positive measures within its severe resource constraints for disaster warning, preventive preparedness relief and rehabilitation programmes.

The Government had been deeply concerned, the Foreign Minister said, with the devastating effects in terms of human tragedy and loss of property caused by the repeated cyclones, tidal waves in the coastal belt and annual floods all over the country.

The Foreign Minister said that the proposed resolution took note of the "remarkable cooperation and solidarity displayed by friendly states, particularly the SARC countries" in assisting Bangladesh in the immediate aftermath of the cyclone and tidal wave in May this year.

The draft resolution also took note that international financial institutions and specialised agencies including the World Bank had the technical capability of devising permanent integrated solution, he said, and added "so far, we have received fairly encouraging response from the donor countries in this regard."

The Foreign Minister said that Bangladesh would actively participate in all the deliberations of the 40th UNGA session in keeping with "our unflinching commitment to the principles and objectives of the United Nations Charter which constitute one of the cornerstones of our foreign policy."

At the same time, Bangladesh would contribute its utmost to the cause of the developing world and promotion of international peace, security and development. "Our role in the session will be guided by the consideration that a spirit of dynamism, constructive and forward-looking approach coupled with moderation, pragmatism and balanced attitude will serve best to ensure the success of this august assembly."

Success

Informing newsmen about unanimous endorsement of Bangladesh for the post of the President of 41st session of UNGA next year by the Asian group, the Foreign Minister said that the election of Bangladesh to this highest and most prestigious post in the United Nations system demonstrates once again the success of the dynamic foreign policy under the personal directive of President H.M. Ershad. It would be the constant endeavour of Bangladesh, he added, to follow President's guidance and directives in the field of foreign policy and play its due role in the comity of nations for the cause of world peace, security, cooperation and development.

Mr Choudhury said that Bangladesh would also attend at the highest level the 40th commemorative session of the UN which would end on October 24. Over 40 Heads of State and Government would attend the session, he added.

The 40th session, he said, would have 146 items in its agenda which include the deadlock over North-South dialogue, mid-term review of the Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA) for the least developed countries, LDCs international economic cooperation, free international trade, economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and development of the energy resources of developing countries, West Asia and Palestine, Lebanon, Iran-Iraq War, Kampuchea, Afghanistan, South Africa and Namibia.

Deteriorating international economic situation, disarmament and international security, South Africa and Namibia situation in Central America, among other issues, would be dealt with by the 40th session, the Foreign Minister said.

The General Assembly session, he said, would take place in a deteriorating international political and economic situation beset with tension, insecurity and underdevelopment.

On the one hand, a phenomenal progress in science and technology, he said, had not been able to eradicate poverty, famine and disease and on the other the scourge of war continued to loom, as the arms race continued consuming huge resources at a great social opportunity cost.

The 39th UNGA session had decided that the theme of the 40th session would be "United Nations for a better world" he said.

The problems in different regions of the world, he said, cry for expeditious solution as the succour and relief of billions of world population were contingent upon satisfactory resolution of the grave issues.

The Foreign Minister listed the world's trouble spots as the illegal annexation of Arab and Palestinian land by Israeli aggression, the inhuman practice of apartheid in southern Africa, the denial of independence to Namibia, the foreign intervention in Afghanistan and Kampuchea, the Iran-Iraq War and added these among others continued to bedevil international peace and security.

The developing countries, he said, find themselves increasingly afflicted by the problems of underdevelopment, trade protectionism, capital shortage, limitation of resources, increasing debt burden and other economic maladies.

BANGLADESH

CORRESPONDENT'S INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN MINISTER

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 6 Sep 85 pp 1, 3

[Article by Abdul Hye]

[Text] Foreign Minister Humayun Rasheed Choudhury will be President of the United Nations General Assembly next year. His candidature has just been unanimously endorsed by the Asian group at the UN. His election to the high post is now a matter of formality.

The UNGA presidency is the highest office in the UN. "It's the highest honour that any individual can get in this world," he told me last Monday, not without an element of deep self-satisfaction. "It's not me alone that the international community has honoured; it has honoured the entire people of Bangladesh," he said.

Choudhury spoke with some gusto of the success stories of our foreign policy and also of its planners and executors. His exposition was not necessarily tinged by the colour of his personal success that he has just achieved.

During an hour-long interview the Foreign Minister dwelt at length on the fundamental principles of Bangladesh foreign policy and also on how these principles have been skillfully applied by our diplomats to project the country's image abroad and protect national sovereignty and independence. He also answered questions on Bangladesh's relations with various countries.

The foreign policy, he said, is geared to creating peaceful conditions with our neighbours, while staying clear of superpower rivalry. Adherence to the principles of non-alignment, he thinks, has made it possible for Bangladesh to achieve the main foreign policy objectives.

According to him, Bangladesh has been able to forge good relations with her "physical neighbours," the "permanent neighbours," that is, the United States and the Soviet Union, the Muslim countries and other nations in developed and developing worlds.

The following are questions and answers:

Question: Bangladesh became a member of the United Nations in 1974. Within four years, she had earned the distinction of becoming one of the non-permanent members of the UN Security Council for two years. She has since been on almost all the UN agencies in one capacity or another. Now you have been unanimously chosen by the Asian member countries to become the president of the United Nations General Assembly next year. What do you think are the factors that are responsible for this diplomatic rise of Bangladesh within a short period of time.

Answer: We have been pursuing a consistent and principled foreign policy. Bangladesh is rated by UN experts as the highest category of correct voting. This is an independent assessment of the UN experts. We got 97 out of 100 on voting pattern which is a tribute to our balanced approach towards international problems. The other thing is that we have a number of very, very skilled diplomats. If you make enquiries, you will find that Bangladesh diplomats usually play the role of bridging which makes them acceptable to all. You will very often find that when there is a situation of confrontation, Bangladesh diplomats are requested to help ease it. Take the example of my election. You will be surprised to see the list of countries that have spoken in favour of Bangladesh. Countries with diametrically opposite foreign policies--Democratic Kampuchea and Vietnam, Cyprus and Turkey, Pakistan and India--supported us (at the Asian group's meeting). We have, over the years, very successfully built up an image whereby we are acceptable to everybody. We should never disturb that image.

Q: Does it involve balancing your actions when you try to sustain this image?

A: No, it doesn't involve balancing. It involves tackling dispassionately, keeping the country's interests in view, each international problem on its merit. We have developed a set of principles which we adhere to when we arrive at a particular conclusion.

Q: What are these principles?

A: The primary objective of our foreign policy is to project the country's image. Then, we have to protect our national interests--political, economic, social and cultural. Next, the foreign policy must reflect the hopes and aspirations of the people. One of our main objectives is to create peaceful conditions with our neighbours. This serves the interests of the country and also reflects the hopes and aspirations of the people. We don't believe in unnecessarily picking up fights with anybody. We shall never do anything or indulge in any activity that might even indirectly jeopardise our sovereignty and independence which was achieved at a tremendous amount of sacrifices on the part of our people. We are very alive and sensitive to the concept of independence.

When I talk about the hopes and aspirations of our people, it also follows that since the vast majority of our people adhere to the Islamic faith, close links with the world of Islam be forged. We have forged that kind of relationships with the Islamic countries. We have been playing a significant role in the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC). We are on every committee that OIC has created. We are one of the more active members of this organisation.

Q: In forging this special relationship with the world of Islam, did you have to change or modify any basic principle of our foreign policy?

A: I don't think we had to make any basic changes in our foreign policy. We haven't compromised on national interests. It is just a question of effort. We tried to forge close relations with the Islamic world and we accomplished it after surmounting obstacles. In doing this, we have reflected the hopes and aspirations of our people.

Q: Do you think our foreign policy has been serving our interests well enough?

A: It has served the interests of the country very well. You may have noticed that a diplomatic history was created recently when there was a number very high level visits to cyclone-battered Urichar. Also there was a large number of messages of sympathy for the cyclone victims. Those were not routine messages of sympathy. I believe they are considering introducing a resolution at the UN to find a permanent solution to the problems of tidal bores and protection of human lives in the vulnerable coastal areas. These are manifestations of great respect in which Bangladesh is held abroad.

Q: South Asia is an area of potential superpower competition. How does this competition affect our foreign policy?

A: From the very beginning, we adopted an attitude of adhering to the principles of non-alignment. This was one of our wise decisions. We have to keep the superpowers away from getting into this part of the Subcontinent. One of the facts of contemporary history is that apart from the physical neighbours, there are two other "permanent neighbours," namely the United States and the Soviet Union, and you are to take their attitudes into your calculations when you form your own attitudes. We take the susceptibilities of both the superpowers into consideration but don't get involved in their fights.

Q: Bangladesh's relations with the Soviet Union were strained in the recent past years. Have you been able to even it up with Moscow?

A: Yes. I think our relations with the Soviet Union have now been evened up. Recently we had a visit by a high official from the USSR after more than 8 years or so. It was useful. As I said before, Bangladesh does not believe in picking up fights or getting involved in any

disputes with the superpowers. We are bound to get hurt if we do so. But there is no compromise with the concept of sovereignty and independence of our state. And when I talk about sovereignty and independence, I also talk about the dignity of the country. As a natural corollary, we do not brook any interference in our internal affairs. I think, by and large, our relations with the Soviet Union are good. The Soviet Union is involved in a lot of economic activities in our country for its development. It's true that on many international issues such as Middle East, Afghanistan, Namibia, we do not see eye to eye with the Soviet Union. But that's no reason why we should pick up fights with them. And again, keeping in view the hopes and aspirations of our people, we must not forget that the Soviet Union was of great diplomatic help at the time of our liberation. It's a matter of history. We can't distort history.

Q: How is our relations with the United States?

A: I myself was Ambassador in Washington. I found tremendous goodwill in that country for the people of Bangladesh. We're a poor country. No doubt, it's not a very satisfactory state of affairs. But there is a tremendous strength in poverty. Because we're a poor country, we evoke support and sympathy amongst peoples of the world. We're very much entitled to it. It was the process of history which has made into what we are today. Our poverty has nothing to do with our failures. That we have been able to tackle the situation is a tribute to the skillful management of the affairs by the successive leaders of Bangladesh.

Q: Do you think there has been a change in India's foreign policy?

A: I don't like to use the word "change." But in the new Indian Prime Minister we have noticed one development which is heartening. India has been sending messages to all her neighbours that she wants to solve her problems with her neighbours peacefully. They have sent envoys, too. These are helpful developments. I have no reason to doubt their sincerity. The process is slow. Problems that have not been solved in years cannot be solved in days. But the fact that some forward movement is taking place is an indication of the attitude of the new Indian Prime Minister. As far as Bangladesh is concerned, I think, there is a genuine effort on the part of India to find solution to issues that exist between the two countries. At least I don't find any antagonism towards Bangladesh.

Q: How would you describe Bangladesh-China relations?

A: China is our neighbouring country. We have got very good relations with China.

Q: The SARC summit is going to be held in Dhaka in December next. How do you evaluate the emergence of this new regional grouping politically, economically and militarily?

A: To us, South Asian Regional Cooperation is entirely a historical concept because in SARC we see the beginning of the reversal of the trends that has not been set in motion in the Subcontinent. Most of the problems that exist in South Asia are problems created by colonial powers. The atmosphere of suspicion, hatred and distrust created by the alien rulers suited powers that were really inimical to the region's interests. We never heard of communal riots before the British arrived. Of course, there had been wars and conquests in the past. But these were on feudalistic and predatory lines. The notorious "divide and rule" policy of the British was to be found not only in South Asia, but everywhere else in the world. As a matter of fact, the contemporary world is trying to solve the problems created by the colonialists, problems like Palestine, Argentina, Kashmir, even China-India boundary dispute. Leaders of the Subcontinent, even after the 1947 partition failed to reverse the trend. In fact they allowed the trend to intensify after the British left. We in Bangladesh are proud of the fact that we have been able to take an initiative which will negate and reverse this trend. I think we are going to turn a new leaf in relations between countries of South Asia.

We have been watching closely and analysing the successes of various regional organisations such as Asean and EEC. One of the sine qua nons of success of all regional organisations is that there is no dominance by one power over the others. This is done on the basis of sovereign equality. When Bangladesh mooted the idea of regional cooperation in 1980, there were a lot of misgivings. Pakistan was fearful that it would be dominated by India. Even late Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had reportedly commented that it would amount to a ganging up by smaller neighbours against India. Those initial fears are removed now. This aspect is being gone about in a very systematic way on the uncompromised assumption and attitude that it is an organisation for cooperation among countries of South Asia on the basis of sovereign equality of states.

Our cooperation will be development-oriented. At least we in Dhaka feel that we must first create the loaf and then we can decide how to share it. We don't have the loaf as yet. We will cooperate with each other to tackle the real problems that exist in the unacceptable quality of life of the people of South Asia.

I have a feeling that there is a security aspect to SAARC. We would not like South Asia to be endangered by any superpower's kirmis heat. We like to solve our problems by ourselves. However, the security of each state is basically the concern of that state itself. In the ultimate analysis, Bangladesh's sovereignty and independence will have to be defended by the people of Bangladesh themselves.

Q: Where does Bangladesh stand on the issue of converting the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace?

A: We subscribe to the concept of Indian ocean as a zone of peace. But at the same time, we don't want the Indian ocean to become a lake of influence of any littoral state either.

Q: What is your stand on the issues of Afghanistan and Kampuchea?

A: We have been opposing the stationing of foreign troops in both Afghanistan and Kampuchea. We will not agree to any situation where the presence of foreign troops will be necessary to prop up a particular regime. The only exception that we will make is in case where foreign troops are present as a result of a resolution of the United Nations.

Q: What about Diego Garcia where America has military presence?

A: We want the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. But what happens if we ask America to withdraw from Diego Garcia and it becomes an ocean of influence of the Soviet Union? How can we do it? We will ask for the dismantling of the US base in that island only if a similar thing is done by the Soviet Union also. The Soviet Union has got its own bases in the Indian Ocea. We do want a peace zone, but we don't want it to be the zone of influence of either of the superpowers or any littoral power.

Q: How do you feel about having the honour and privilege that go with the post of UNGA presidency?

A: The UNGA presidency is the highest office in the United Nations. It is the highest honour that any individual can get in this world. I accept the responsibility with all humility. I feel very inadequate. I think if is not me alone whom the international community has honoured. It has honoured the entire people of Bangladesh, it is an honour that is due to the people of Bangladesh. It is a unique and historical honour done to Bangladesh.

I, on my part, will do my best to perform my responsibilities as President of UNGA for the period with all the skills that I am capable of mustering. And I only hope and pray that God will endow me with skills good enough to match the responsibilities that go with this office.

CSO: 4600/1733

BANGLADESH

REPORT ON FOREIGN SECRETARY'S SPEECH IN LUANDA

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 7 Sep 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Bangladesh has called for an immediate international attention to tackle the post-famine problems faced by the sub-Saharan African countries and improve the condition of more than 600 million Asians living below the absolute poverty line, reports BSS.

Speaking at the Non-Aligned foreign ministers' conference in Luanda, Angola, on Thursday, the leader of a four-member Bangladesh delegation, Foreign Secretary Faruq A. Choudhury said it was distressing to note that more than one-third of the population of the least developed countries was still grossly undernourished.

The Bangladesh delegation leader, according to his speech released in Dhaka yesterday, said that even half way through the third development decade it was distressing to note that infant mortality rate was 10 times higher in the developing countries than in the developed ones. He added that two out of three adults were still illiterate, per capita GDP in many LDCs was lower in 1984 than at the start of the decade and the decline in per capita food production in many LDCs, particularly in Africa of the last decade still continued.

The Bangladesh delegation leader denounced the racist South African regime and called upon the international community, "let us work ceaselessly to see the end of a regime in South Africa that preaches and practices policies repugnant to the conscience of mankind."

Mr Choudhury called for converting the voluntary sanctions against South Africa approved by the UN Security Council into "a mandatory one."

The Bangladesh delegation leader said, "we denounce the illegal exploitation of natural resources of Namibia and plundering of these resources by some interested parties."

"Let us strive in unison," he said, for the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners six of whom are in South African prisons for the last 21 years.

The Bangladesh delegation leader called for immediate and effective implementation of a five-point action plan for the uplift of the more than 600 million Asians, four-fifths of the continent's population.

The action plan includes accelerated implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA) in favour of the LDCs, full implementation of the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board Resolution 165 (Six), support for drought and famine hit people of Africa, comprehensive measures for increasing the financial flows to developing countries, concessional assistance to the LDCs, roll-back of protectionism and trade barriers and strengthening of world trading system through full implementation of UN and Non-Aligned resolutions and convening of an international conference on monetary and financial issues to consider appropriate reforms, creation of conditions to start a new round of multilateral trade negotiations to safeguard the interests of the developing countries.

Mr Faruq Chowdhury called for total withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied Arab territories, withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan and allowing the Afghans and Kampuchians to choose freely their own political, social and economic system without any outside interference and intervention.

He condemned Israel for the atrocities committed by its troops in Lebanon.

CSO: 4600/1734

4 October 1985

BANGLADESH

ANTISMUGGLING DRIVE CHASES AWAY THAI TRAWLERS

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 10 Sep 85 pp 1, 8

[Article by Khondker Manirul Alam]

[Text] The Thai trawlers fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Bangladesh under pay-as-you-earn scheme with local partners have fled because of massive anti-smuggling drive launched by the government, informed sources said.

All the 49 Thai trawlers brought under the scheme have fled during the last couple of weeks. Some of them have taken the Bangladeshi crew in Thai port while others left the crew in the sea or unboarded them to other vessels.

The process of disappearing of the Thai trawlers was hastened following the recent formation of a task force by the government to check the papers of the trawlers.

The Thai personnel of the trawlers were enjoying almost total freedom and taking the full advantage of the ineffective control of the local partners. The Bangladeshi partners had no control whatsoever over the operation of trawlers, although they are supposed to be in full control under the provision of the agreement.

Sources said it is apparent that the local partners of the trawlers brought under the pay-as-you-earn scheme are "merely lenders of their name" in the deals. "They got money and overlooked their responsibility in the operation of the trawlers," sources said.

Mr Shahidullah, convener of the 'task force' on the fishing trawlers, told the Times over telephone from Chittagong on Monday that the entire deals of the pay-as-you-earn schemes were "contrary to the national interest." The papers of the Thai trawlers were faulty and inadequate. "When we have started examining relevant papers of the trawlers, they have fled," he said.

However, sources said that the disappearing of the Thai trawlers began last month when a trawler was caught by the authorities with smuggled goods worth over Taka two crore.

Sources alleged that most of the Thai trawlers of pay-as-you-earn scheme were engaged in smuggling of foreign goods into Bangladesh. Most of the recent seizure of foreign goods worth over Tk 50 crore in different parts of the country had been smuggled by the Thai trawlers, sources alleged.

Sources said the masters of the Thai trawlers had always "befooled" the Customs authorities at Chittagong by declaring less quantity of catch of fish. But actually the catches were high. The excess catches were delivered to Singapore and the money was recycled by bringing contraband items.

The smuggled goods were unboarded in high sea to the local partners of smuggling operation. Once the smuggled goods were unloaded from the trawlers, they started fish trawling and reporting to Chittagong with fish in their freezers.

Sources said the clause of inspection of the freezers of the trawlers was so complicated and faulty that the Customs officials never questioned the authenticity of the declaration of the masters of the trawlers about the declared quantity of fish catch. "The local partners had also to rely on the declaration of the masters of the trawlers. They remained happy with the money they got by their being the partner of the fishing deals," sources said.

Although the principle of allowing the pay-as-you-earn scheme trawlers was that the country would be benefitted from the fish catches, in reality the situation was quite reverse. A clause of the agreement signed between a local company and a Thai trawlers owner company over the pay-as-you-earn project read as: "the owner shall be allowed to share 80 percent of catches of fish and in consideration of the responsibility of management, the local party shall get 20 percent catches of fish."

The government-appointed 'task force' expressed its surprise over such a provision of agreement. "It's a piracy," said an official, pointing out that no joint venture or anything of this sort could be allowed unless the share is distributed on 51:49 basis. "Anticipating that we will question the validity of such provision, the Thai trawlers have fled," the official said.

Another reason of fleeing of the Thai trawlers was that the government had asked the local partners to fully own the trawlers by November next, after making payments to the owners. But, it is learnt that none of the local partners showed any interest to own the trawlers. They did not want to invest, but to earn quick and easy money. "Under such a situation, it is obvious that the local partners would allow the trawlers to flee," sources pointed out.

Meanwhile, Bangladeshi fish trawling firms sources said that it was known that the Thai trawlers would disappear one day when the fish grounds in the EEZ of the country would dry when the fish grounds in the cal fishing [as published]. The fish grounds in the EEZ of Bangladesh are now in pitiable condition and the catch has dwindled alarmingly during the current season, they said.

18 Thrown Overboard

BSS adds: Nawasit, a young Thai cadet officer, for his sense of fellow feeling was guilty to the Thai Captain and crew of a fishing trawler who threw him into the sea along with 18 Bangladeshis before fleeing with the vessel Thursday evening.

Nawasit, who was on board the Thai trawler 'Blue MT-7' fishing in the Bay of Bengal, had resisted the cruel action against the Bangladeshis by fellow Thai crew.

In the evening of Thursday the Captain who was planning to flee with the trawler asked the 18 Bangladeshi crew and cadets to jump into the sea and when they protested the Thai crew were ordered to throw them into the sea.

Nawasit vainly resisted the illegal action by his countrymen and met the same fate.

The young Thai cadet who arrived Cox's Bazar this morning reported to the police and gave the statement to them.

CSO: 4600/1739

BANGLADESH

PRESS NOTE ON FISHING IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Sep 85 pp 1, 14

[Text] The Government on Tuesday expressed the hope that those engaged in marine fishing in the Bangladesh territorial waters would come forward to implement the policies of the Government in the regard, reports BSS.

In a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock on the recent escape of some Thai fishing trawlers from the Bangladesh waters, the Government categorically said that the development of fisheries, its collection and utilisation would be made in the national interest. The Government is also taking necessary steps in this regard the Press Note added.

Following is the text of the Press Note.

The use of trawlers for fishing in the Bangladesh territorial waters in the Bay of Bengal began in 1970. At the beginning the number of trawlers was very few. Gradually the crew of trawlers developed their attention to the existing fish resources in the Bangladesh territorial waters and the import of trawlers in large numbers in the country through various methods began since 1980.

Till December 1984 a fairly large number of trawlers were imported in the country under three ways like: Pay as you earn scheme, joint venture and completely owned and purchased by the Bangladeshi citizens. Later in January 1985 the Government had decided that no new trawler could be imported until the reserves of various species of fishes were ascertained. A total of 114 trawlers were imported till December 31, 1984 under the following categories: A) pay as you earn scheme-54, B) joint venture-18, C) with full investment by Bangladeshi citizens through wage earner's scheme Shilpa Bank Shilpa Rin Sangstha credits or by otherwise arranged money-37, D) Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation collected-5. Total 114.

At the initial stage there were no laws and regulations to control the movement and activities of the trawlers. With the increase in the number of trawlers, a marine fisheries ordinance was promulgated in 1983 with a view to controlling the activities of the trawlers and certain necessary

regulations were also introduced under the ordinance. Even after this, allegations were raised by various quarters about the activities of the trawlers imported under pay as you earn scheme and joint venture.

Body Constituted

Thereafter the Government constituted a Secretary level committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary to examine the rules and regulations under Marine Fisheries Ordinance 1983 and submit recommendations to the Government for ensuring their effecting implementation. The Committee reviewed the condition and activities of the trawlers imported under various methods and found that some activities of the trawlers imported under pay as you earn scheme and joint venture are detrimental to the economic interest of the country.

The Committee observed that in the overall interest of the country it was necessary to bring those trawlers under the Bangladeshi ownership. For this the Government according to the recommendation of the Committee, had decided that the Bangladeshi ownership of those joint venture companies be increased to 51 percent in those trawlers by six months. Otherwise registration and fishing licences of those concerned trawlers would be cancelled. Similarly, about the trawlers imported under pay as you earn scheme, the Government had decided that the operators of those trawlers would submit to the Government the certified copy of their agreements with the foreign suppliers by six months and ownership of those trawlers have to be transferred in favour of Bangladeshi importers. Failing to this, their registration and licences would be cancelled.

Simultaneously the Government constituted a task force to examine details and make arrangements for issuing licences to the trawlers engaged in fishing in the Bangladesh territorial waters for catching various species of fishes in accordance to the utility.

After the task force began its work and the above mentioned Government decisions were communicated to the trawler operating companies, some trawlers began to escape Bangladesh territorial waters without permission. Since June last, quite a few trawlers have escaped. While escaping some trawlers took away Bangladeshi crew and the fish catches. During the last month seven trawlers of Messrs Marine Exporters Limited which were imported under pay as you earn scheme escaped with over 100 Bangladeshi crew and employees and a huge quantity of fish catches. According to latest news during the last few days another nine trawlers belonging to three companies Messrs Agro food Services Limited, Messrs Deep Sea Fishers Limited and Messrs Blue-Bay Limited have escaped Bangladesh territorial waters without permission.

Steps Against Illegal Fishing

It was evident from the recently published news that those foreign trawlers were engaged in activities detrimental to the interest of the country. Their escape without permission suggest that they had no contract and other valid papers and they could be caught for their illegal stay and the activities with the investigation of task force and they are escaping out of these fears. It is clear that the Government's earlier decision regarding these trawlers was appropriate.

The Government has received with due importance the matters of escape of these trawlers. Detailed investigations are underway in this regard and legal steps would be taken against the companies engaged in illegal activities. Necessary programmes have also been taken to bring back the Bangladeshi crew and employees safely.

In this context the Government wants to declare firmly that development of fisheries, fishing and utilisation would be made in the national interest. For this the Government is taking necessary measures. The Government would not tolerate any activities detrimental to the national interest. The Government hopes that all those engaged in fishing in the territorial waters of Bangladesh would come forward to implement these policies of the Government.

CSO: 4600/1740

BANGLADESH

FOREIGN OFFICE: BANGLADESH CREW LOCATED

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 9 Sep 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] The Thai government have informed Bangladesh that they have located 140 Bangladeshi crew in three fishing trawlers in two southern Thailand ports of Satun and Trang, a Foreign Office Press release said in Dhaka on Sunday, reports BSS.

The Thai crew of seven Thai trawlers Chainavee--1 to Chainavee-7 operating under joint venture had escaped with the vessels forcibly taking away an unspecified number of Bangladeshi crew on board and a huge catch of fish from Bangladesh waters off Chittagong on August 29. The trawlers were ultimately scheduled to be transferred to Bangladesh entrepreneurs in the joint venture on hire purchase basis.

Officials said that the authorities were investigating into the actual number of Bangladeshi crew kidnapped by their Thai counterparts.

The Press release said that Bangladesh requested the Thai authorities to take necessary steps to bring the 140 Bangladeshi crew to Bangkok for their return to Bangladesh.

Three senior Bangladesh embassy officials in Bangkok have been instructed to proceed to the two ports in far south Thailand to meet the crew, render them all possible assistance and ensure their safety and well-being it added.

Of the total number of crew forcibly taken away, 119 have been located in two trawlers in the port of Satun and 21 more in another trawler in the port of Trang.

The Press release said that the Thai authorities informed the Bangladesh embassy in Bangkok that the 140 Bangladeshi crew had been located after Bangladesh Foreign Office took up the matter with the Thai government Wednesday and expressed "great concern for the Bangladeshi crew in the trawlers.

Officials here described the act by the Thai crew in the trawlers as "highly illegal" and "highhanded."

The Foreign Office press release said that Bangladesh ambassador to Thailand had been maintaining constant contact with the Thai authorities and monitoring the developments.

The Thai crew escaped after kidnapping the Bangladeshi crew on board following recent haul of another Thai trawler with contrabands worth about taka two crore.

CSO: 4600/1736

BANGLADESH

FUTILITY OF SHANTI BAHINI ACTIVITIES NOTED

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 23 Aug 85 p 5

[Editorial]

PROBLEM IN THE HILLS

The so-called Shanti Bahini kidnapped on July 29 four persons—all labourers—while they were engaged in construction work at Billachara in the district of Rangamati. The poor fellows were held hostage for two weeks and released on August 11 in exchange of a ransom of Taka eight thousand from their employer.

Again, on August 14, six members of the Shantibahini attacked a passenger launch at Alotila near Rangamati and decamped with sixty wrist watches, four bags of rice and a hard cash of Taka one lakh.

It is evident from the nature of the attacks that the Bahini has lost sight of its goal, if any. And as an organisation, if it at all can be so called, it is fast losing its strength, indulging in brigandage and just living on pillage, blackmail, ransom and such other mean ways of survival. If it had the organisational strength and the ideological basis it wouldn't have attacked poor and unarmed day labourers and the helpless launch passengers.

Since the declaration of the general amnesty in October 1983, many of the misguided tribals have understood the futility of continuing their so-called struggle and have surrendered to the security forces. Government is also taking all possible measures within its limited means for their

rehabilitation. The measures adopted by the government for the welfare of the tribals and the multi-sectoral development activities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts have not gone unappreciated by the sensible tribal leaders and their followers. They are not only disillusioned now, they are also cooperating with the security forces in apprehending the troublemakers. The misguided ones who have not yet grasped the realities have only two options—peace and prosperity on the one hand, and on the other a struggle into extinction. Conflict between the two rival groups—the 'Pritee' and the 'Larma'—is also hastening the process of their collective demise.

The declaration of general amnesty and sympathetic approach to the problems of the tribal people have evidently been more effective than any other measure taken so far. It appears that the multi-sectoral development activities are going on in full swing under the coordination of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board. This pace of development has to be maintained, without causing any backlash and with full understanding of their ethnic culture and beliefs.

Complaints are sometimes heard about the mismanagement at the receiving camps. It will be really unfortunate if the process of restoring peace in the disturbed area is slowed down only due to mismanagement and negligence of a few individuals, despite all-out efforts and economic involvement on the part of the central authority.

The 'Shanti Bahini' leaders who are still dominated by anti-state elements, should know that no external force can give them any solution, whatever amount of friendship they may feign. They should also understand that no responsible government can allow a part of its citizenry to go their own way in defiance of state's sovereignty and authority.

BANGLADESH

PRESIDENT ERSHAD'S AUTUMN TRAVEL PLANS TOLD

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 6 Sep 85 p 1

[Article by Ahmed Fazl]

[Text] President Hussain Muhammed Ershad has a series of state and official visits planned for the next three months according to Foreign Ministry sources. These visits abroad will keep the President busy mostly with international diplomacy.

He is scheduled to leave Dhaka for Jeddah for the Organisation of Islamic Conference Peace Committee meeting on the five-year-old Gulf War on September 11. The meeting which is also to be participated by the heads of state and government of Guinea, Gambia, Turkey, Senegal, Pakistan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation is scheduled in Saudi Arabia from September 12 to 14.

Early October he will prepare for a state visit to Turkey. The tour will be a return visit to that of Turkish President Kenan Evren who visited Bangladesh from December 23 to 25 in 1982.

The Turkish embassy in Dhaka is currently in contact with the Foreign Ministry to give the final touches to the preparations for the state visit to Ankara.

With the Turkish visit over, President Ershad will have hardly any time to prepare himself for the Commonwealth summit meeting scheduled in the Bahamas from October 16 to 22.

Coming on the heels of the Commonwealth summit is the 40th session of the United Nations General Assembly. President Ershad will attend the session, which also marks the 40th founding anniversary of the UN from October 22 to 26. According to official sources, the President will address the summit to be attended by over 80 heads of state and government.

In the first week of November, President Ershad is expected to fly to Malaysia on another state visit. The Malaysian visit is in the preparatory stage now, according to sources.

After the visit, President Ershad is expected to be busy with the hosting of the first summit of the South Asian Regional Cooperation (SARC) scheduled in Dhaka December 7-8.

The summit will bring all the heads of state and government of the seven South Asian countries--Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka--for the first time.

CSO: 4600/1733

BANGLADESH

GOVERNMENT PURCHASE TO SUPPORT JUTE MARKET

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 11 Sep 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Jute market position in the country has been improving fast with the Government agencies and private firms buying jute from the markets and as well as at a jute purchasing centres, reports BSS.

Nine lakh bales of jute were available for sale in the market last month and all were lifted by Government agencies and private parties. The purchase share of BJMC and Government cooperation was six and a half lakh bales and that of private sector two and a half lakh bales.

With the activating of jute market, the price of jute has also been showing an upward trend.

The Government, at the directive of President H.M. Ershad, has so far sanctioned Taka eight hundred crore for support-purchase of jute to the benefit of the jute growers. More funds will be available, if necessary, official sources said.

As a measure to revamp the jute market, Government had reduced export price of jute to further expand Bangladesh jute market abroad. It is expected as a result, export of Bangladesh jute will pick up shortly.

Official sources observed that price of jute in the home market will further get a boost benefiting the growers once the foreign buyers started showing their increased response to Bangladesh jute.

Meanwhile, President H.M. Ershad while addressing a mammoth public meeting at Tangail on Monday said that the Government was fully aware of the jute market position and closely monitoring the situation to uphold the interest of the jute growers. He said directives were given to the Government agencies to ease the jute market by lifting jute as much as possible.

President Ershad referred to the statement by a quarter to fix minimum price for jute and said such step will hardly go to the benefit of the jute growers as in that case the middlemen in the jute trade will reap more profit out of it.

He said considering the interest of the growers, his Government has taken decision to ease the jute market by lifting jute from the market as much as possible.

The measure will provide an opportunity to the growers to sell their increased production this year without being burdened with the produce. The President said he will see to it that jute growers are in no way affected.

President Ershad categorically said that he is always eager to promote the cause of the peasants and the workers who are the two pillars of national economy. In this context he mentioned about the measures taken by his Government to improve the lot of the workers and peasants which included land reforms, protection of the interest of share-croppers, right to have homestead and enhancement of pay and allowances for the workers.

CSO: 4600/1741

4 October 1985

BANGLADESH

OFFICIAL'S APPEAL ON CAMPUS VANDALISM WELCOMED

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 10 Sep 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Different political, student and social organisations have expressed deep concern over the fast deterioration of the law and order situation in the campus. They welcomed the statement of the Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University and demanded stringent measures to restore peace and discipline in the campus.

In her statement, Begum Sufia Kamal supported the call of the Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University to build up united resistance against the armed hooligans in the campus. She said that erosion of values in the society, large scale frustration and fast deterioration of law and order situation have enhanced the magnitude of the crisis confronting the nation today. She felt that no individual with conscience could remain silent and indifferent to such situation. She called upon all to be vocal against social evils and consolidate social resistance to free the country from the crisis.

Thanking the Dhaka University Vice Chancellor for his statement, Mr Abbas Ali Khan, Acting Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami said that the demand of the VC to flush out the armed hooligans from the campus within 10 days time had reflected the sentiment of the peace loving people of the country. He called upon the Government, political parties, student organisations and all concerned forces to implement the demand of the VC.

Mr Oli Ahad of Democratic Leagu, Mr Nurul Huq Chowdhury of Ganotantrik, Karmi Shibir, Major (Rtd) Jainul Abedin Khan of Bangladesh Islami Andolon and Mr Shamsul Arefin of United Peoples Party (UPP) in a joint statement expressed solidarity with the demand of the VC to free the campus from the hands of the armed miscreants. They urged the Government to take immediate steps to oust the armed hooligans from the campus. They observed that restoration of fundamental and political rights of the people was the pre-condition to bring back peace and discipline in the society.

CSO: 4600/1737

BANGLADESH

COMMITTEE EVALUATES BANGLADESH MISSIONS ABROAD

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 6 Sep 85 pp 1, 8

[Article by Hassan Abul Quashem]

[Text] The evaluation report by a high-powered committee on the operation of Bangladesh missions abroad is now being considered by the government as preliminary deliberation on its basic recommendations continues.

The committee was appointed in May 1983. It submitted its report on May 16, 1984.

Then secretary of external resources division Mafizur Rahman was the convenor of the committee. The members were: foreign secretary, secretary of commerce division and secretary of labour and manpower division.

Its terms of reference was to examine and evaluate the activities of Bangladesh missions; to decide and identify each mission on the basis of its activity; and locate whether its functions are mainly economic, political or commercial for the purpose of appointing ambassadors on high commissioners having adequate background according to its gradation and evaluation. It was also asked to evaluate and assess the benefit that the nation is deriving from each of them.

According to a highly placed source, the committee has recommended closure of a number of diplomatic missions while it has advised restraint in expanding or opening new missions in the near future.

The foreign ministry has differed from other committee members on some major issues. Its representative submitted a separate report differing from some basic recommendations of the committee relating, for example, to foreign policy objectives, manning foreign missions, compulsory service of foreign service cadres in different development ministries such as finance, commerce and labour and tourism development and selection of heads of diplomatic missions from amongst competent persons in economic commercial and other sectors.

The report, the source said, has emphasised the need for re-directing the foreign policy objectives to realise greater economic and commercial gains.

Performance

The report spoke of poor performance on the part of a number of missions which were found to be inadequate in relation to the expenditure incurred.

The committee recommended classification of the existing 54 missions into five categories on the basis of the re-defined foreign policy objectives. Category One includes 11 countries--Burma, China, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, UK, USA (Washington), USA (New York) and USSR. The foreign ministry recommended 17, adding Australia, Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands and Denmark to the list.

The foreign ministry argued that political considerations should be the main criteria for formulating policy objectives and observed that in the present day world the question of national defence has an inextricable linkage with political relations with different countries.

The committee suggested protection and advancement of our economic and commercial interests in Japan, FRG, France and Canada. It listed these areas as the targets of the main thrust of Bangladesh's foreign policy. All efforts must be adequately geared to serve the vital interests of the country, particularly in the fields of foreign aid mobilisation, expansion of trade, export of manpower, promotion of foreign investment and tourism in addition to the overriding considerations of national security, the report said.

It recommended the fixing of annual target for each mission in the fields of aid, trade, manpower export and investment promotion. For monitoring their performance, creation of a secretariat to be headed by an inspector general of the status of additional secretary has also been recommended.

For appointing acting heads of missions, the committee suggested that the choice should go to the seniormost diplomat in a par-mission rather than the seniormost diplomat serving in the political wing, as is the practice now. It also called for a coordinated approach to all component wings and sections of a mission.

The missions in Jeddah, Tokyo, London, New Delhi, Belgrade, Moscow, Paris, Beijing, Kuwait and Baghdad to indicate in definitive terms, the total external aid given us by the respective host countries. In the cases of Japan, UK, India and France, the figures were available from published documents.

Figures supplied by different missions were found to be widely varying from the official figures of the ERD. The mission in Stockholm which is accredited concurrently to Norway and Denmark said that they do not play any economic role and undertake economic activity. The Kuala Lumpur mission reported in the negative as to the aid commitment, whereas the Malaysian Prime Minister himself offered technical assistance to Bangladesh during his visit to Dhaka.

The mission in UAE did not submit any report on aid for five years. There were two reports on economy and aid climate from Tokyo in 1982, three from Bonn, but none from Jeddah, Tripoli, New Delhi, Stockholm and Islamabad in that year.

The committee described the volume of information received on foreign trade as inadequate. Export and import trade figures received from Australia, France, FRG, Norway and Sweden contradicted the figures published in the World Bank report. The missions in Ankara, Tripoli, Jakarta and Warsaw had excused themselves by saying no figures were available.

In their five-year projection reports, Bangladesh missions in Abu Dhabi and Libya said there were no figures available on manpower export potentials, while our Kuwait mission reported five lakh employment opportunities. This was unbelievable, for the total population of Kuwait is 1.5 million. The mission in Qatar (pop 0 26m) reported 30,000 job opportunities.

CSO: 4600/1733

BANGLADESH

BRIEFS

NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL--Mr M. Nurullah, Acting Attorney General, has been appointed Attorney General for Bangladesh, says an official handout. The service of Mr K.A. Bakr as Attorney General for Bangladesh have been terminated with immediate effect. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 6 Sep 85 p 1]

SCIENTIST TO MOSCOW--Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelley, founder-chairman of the Centre for Development Research, left for Moscow on Monday on an invitation from the world famous Academy of Sciences of the USSR. He is the first ever Bangladeshi scholar to be invited by the Academy. During his stay in the USSR Dr Shelley will meet and exchange views with Soviet academicians specialising in South Asian and Far Eastern affairs. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 4 Sep 85 p 3]

DAINIK BARTA WEEKLY--President Lt Gen H.M. Ershad has issued directives for overall improvement of the management of Dainik Barta, a Bengali daily published from Rajshahi, reports BSS. Presiding over a meeting of the Council of Ministers at Bangabhaban on Sunday, the President stressed the need for highlighting the news and views about development activities in northern areas of the country. It should also reflect the true aspirations of the masses of the region in the context of overall national perspective, he said. The government will provide back-up support for improving the quality of production of the Daily. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 3 Sep 85 p 1]

ENVOY TO KAMPUCHEA--Bangladesh Ambassador Enayetullah Khan presented his credentials in Phum Dangrek (Kampuchea) on Wednesday to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, President, Democratic Kampuchea, according to a message received in Dhaka on Saturday, reports BSS. Chinese Ambassador to Kampuchea Zhang Dewei also presented his credentials to Prince Sihanouk the same day, it added. Vice President Khieu Samphan, Deputy Prime Minister Ieng Sary, Defence Minister Son Samn and Prince Nordom Ranariddh were present at the credential presentation ceremony. Mr Khan, who is Bangladesh's Ambassador to China with residence in Beijing, is concurrently accredited to Democratic Kampuchea. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 1 Sep 85 p 8]

JAI JAI DIN WEEKLY--The Government has prohibited with immediate effect the publication of any subsequent issue of the Bengali weekly Jai Jai Din printed, published and edited by Mr Shafia Rahman from Shandhani Press, 682 Purna Paltan, Dhaka, according to an official handout, says BSS. The action against the weekly has been taken under Special Powers Act 1974 for publishing two prejudicial reports captioned "Diner Par Din and Ugandar Obhvuthan Karira Katha Rakheni" in its issues of August 6 and 20, 1985. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 3 Sep 85 p 1]

DELEGATION TO USSR--A three member cooperative delegation led by Kazi Abdus Salam, President of the Bangladesh Jatiya Samabaya Union left Dhaka on Monday for a goodwill visit to Soviet Union at the invitation of the Central Union of Consumers Cooperative of Soviet Union. The other members of the delegation are Mr M. Iqbal Hussain, Vice-President of BJSU and Begum Firoja Mohsin, President of Bangladesh Jatiya Mahila Samabaya Samity. They will visit different places of Soviet Union for seven days. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 3 Sep 85 p 8]

TRAINING COUNCIL RECONSTITUTED--The Government has reconstituted the National Training Council, reports BSS. According to the gazette notification of August 29, Major General Mohabbat Jan Chowdhury, Minister in Charge of the Food Ministry will be the Chairman of the new Council. The 29-member council include the Minister for Health and Population, Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperative Minister for Labour and Manpower, the Principal Secretary and Adviser in-Charge of Ministry of Finance, Minister for Planning, Minister for Social Welfare and Women Affairs and the Adviser in-Charge of Ministry of Establishment. The Additional Secretary, Ministry of Establishment will act as the Member-Secretary of the Council. The function and responsibilities of the Council will remain unchanged. The terms and conditions of the Council include formulation of a national training policy with necessary review, assessment and changes in the present system, fixation of priorities and allocation of resources on that basis, and to decide the links between present education and training system with the public administration and economic development process. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 2 Sep 85 p 1]

BNP STUDENT FRONT--An 81-member Central Executive Committee of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, a student front of BNP (Shah), was formed in the city yesterday with Sayedur Rahman Jasim and S.M. Kamal Hossain as its President and Secretary respectively, reports ENA. Shah Azizur Rahman and A.K M. Myedul Islam, President and Secretary General of the party, respectively approved the committee. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 7 Sep 85 p 1]

CHITRA RATH WEEKLY--The Government has prohibited with immediate effect the publication of any subsequent issue of the Bengali periodical Chitra Rath printed, published and edited by Mr A.L. Zahirul Hoq Khan from Lima Press, 191 Court House Street and 53 Dinanath Sen Road, Gandaria, Dhaka, says a PID handout. The action against the periodical has been taken under Special Powers Act 1974 for publishing some prejudicial articles and pictures in its issue of June 1985. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 5 Sep 85 p 1]

IDB ASSISTANCE--Bangladesh Shilpa Bank (BSB) concluded on Monday three tripartite subscription agreements with Islamic Development Bank (IDB) providing for equity participation of IDB in two textile finishing units and one pharmaceutical project as under implementation in Bangladesh, according to a Press release, reports BSS. The equity contribution of IDB in these three units amounted to Taka 14.843 million. All these three projects are located in the northern region of the country. The IDB mission also approved equity participation in two other BSB-financed textile finishing units, subscription agreements of which are expected to be executed soon, the Press release said. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 10 Sep 85 p 1]

CSO: 4600/1738

4 October 1985

INDIA

DMK PRESIDENT COMMENTS ON SRI LANKA PROPOSALS

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 2 Sep 85 p 4

[Text]

Madras, Sept. 1 (UNI): The DMK president, Mr M. Karunanidhi, today charged that the draft proposals initiated by the leader of the Sri Lankan delegation to the Thimphu talks, Mr Hector Jayewardene, in Delhi yesterday were being forced on the Tamil groups.

He told newsmen after a meeting of the Tamil Eelam Supporters Organisation (Teso) here, that the new draft incorporated the proposals already rejected by the Tamil leaders and was drawn up "in connivance" with the Sri Lankan President, Mr J.R. Jayewardene. "These proposals will remain only on paper," he said.

The Centre was presently pursuing a "policy of appeasement" with the Sri Lankan government while exerting "undue and undesirable" pressure on the Tamil groups in an attempt to hasten an accord, Mr Karunanidhi said.

Mr Karunanidhi said any accord for the settlement of the ethnic issue in Sri Lanka should guarantee equal status to the Tamil minorities in the island and create a congenial atmosphere in the northern and east-

ern provinces to enable the Tamil refugees staying here to return to their homeland. He said the Sri Lankan government should end "genocide of Tamils and colonisation of Tamil areas."

The Teso also appealed to the Centre not to resort to what it called "the game of dividing the Tamils and forcing an accord."

Replying to the Congress(I) charge that the DMK was reviving separatist feelings among people, Mr Karunanidhi said if supporting the cause of the Sri Lanka Tamils amounted to that "then we shall continue to do so."

Mr Karunanidhi said the meeting condemned what he called the "sadistic attitude" of the Tamil Nadu government in arresting 7,000 DMK, Dravida Kazhagam and Tamil Nadu Kamaraj Congress workers in connection with the rail roko agitation for a fortnight.

The party volunteers who were arrested in Karnataka and the Union territory of Pondicherry were released immediately, he pointed out.

CSO: 4600/1726

INDIA

PAPERS REPORT ON INDO-PRC RELATIONS, EXPECTATIONS

Interview with PRC Leader

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 Sep 85 p 9

[Text] An influential Chinese leader has expressed the hope that the border dispute between India and China would not come in the way of greater political, technical and economic co-operation between the two countries.

"In fact the border problem has been thrust on us by history and we desire that it should be solved. Such problems are solved through peaceful negotiations. We have been having talks," Mr. Hu Qili told Mr. Kanhaiya Lal Nandan, editor, "Dinaman," in a recent interview in Beijing.

Stating that the sixth round of talks would be held in Delhi, he expressed the hope that it would lead to "some good results."

Asked whether increase in the number of Chinese projects in Nepal would not affect cordial relations between India and China, Mr. Hu said his country did not want any misunderstanding to arise in India.

"We were not careful about this aspect nor did we feel any necessity for this. But if these misunderstandings continue to grow we would like to avoid them. We will not allow any such thing to happen in India," Mr. Qili added.

Ties with Neighbours

Mr. Hu said Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's approach to various problems so far had raised hopes and "it seems that our relations will become even better than in the 1950s. Our party is committed to the principles of Panchsheel and has stressed the need for improving relations with China's neighbours."

Asked to comment on allegations of China was "expansionism" in the context of the Tibetan situation, he said it was very clear that Tibet was an inseparable part of China and "we want to remove many a misunderstanding from the mind of the Dalai Lama."

"We are talking with his representatives. We have invited him. He would be welcome. We do not know why he is not coming. If you know the reason that would help us," he said.

The Chinese leader evaded direct reply to a question about the efforts of Pakistan to acquire weapons and create instability in the sub-continent and said China was strongly opposed to nuclear arms race.

"We are for complete ban on nuclear weapons and their complete destruction. China will never be first to use a nuclear weapon," he said.

About the non-aligned movement, Mr. Hu Qili said China was supporting the movement from outside.

Prime Ministers' Meeting, New Talks

Madras THE HINDU in English 2 Sep 85 p 9

[Article from G. K. Reddy]

[Text] The next round of Sino-Indian talks - the sixth in the series of official-level discussions will be held in Delhi from November 4 to 11, a year after the last one in Beijing.

But before the two Governments resume this dialogue in Delhi, the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, will be meeting the Chinese Premier Mr. Zhao Ziang, in New York next month during the U.N. General Assembly session.

Though it would not be possible for them to go into the substantive aspects of a highly complex problem like the border dispute in the course of a brief meeting in a third country on an international occasion, the Indian and Chinese Prime Ministers can nevertheless set the right tone for the impending official talks by agreeing, even if it is only in principle, to seek a comprehensive settlement reflecting the legitimate interests of both sides.

Waning interest: There has been a psychological setback to this series of official-level talks because of the waning Chinese interest in keeping these discussions confined to diplomats without bringing the political leaders of the two countries into the picture. The Chinese have indicated more than once that they would prefer to elevate this dialogue to the political-level by starting off with exchange of visits by the top leaders of the two Governments.

One of the issues that Mr. Zhao Ziang will probably raise during his meeting with Mr. Rajiv Gandhi is the proposal mooted by Beijing a few months ago for reopening the Indian consulates-general in Lhasa and Shanghai and those of China in Bombay and Calcutta for carrying forward the process of formalisation to the next stage, despite the lack of progress in tackling the border problem.

At these official-level talks, the two delegations break up into four sub-groups after the plenary sessions for dealing separately with the border dispute, cultural cooperation, scientific and technological exchanges, and the question of properties and assets taken after the 1962 conflict. It is in the first sub-group that the main discussions have been taking place during

the last five years on the procedural aspects as a prelude to substantive negotiations on the border problem.

Inter-related issues: But there are inter-related political issues, which continue to cast a shadow over the border issue, that have to be faced in a spirit of mutual accommodation. These relate essentially to the Chinese readiness to recognise India's geopolitical interests on its side of the Himalayas along the disputed borders, without getting involved in the internal politics of the sub-continent. As a token of its good faith and willingness to respect these special Indian interests, China will have to refrain from secretly assisting Pakistan's nuclear efforts and also desist from deep involvement in Nepal, besides accepting the finality of Sikkim's integration.

It is only in the context of such a wider understanding that the top political leaders of India and China can get together to discuss and settle the border dispute in a spirit of mutual confidence. A lot of diplomatic spadework, therefore, requires to be done before the dialogue on the border issue, whether it is at the official or political level, can be carried forward from the stage of quibbling over principles and procedures to that of substantive discussions to evolve a comprehensive settlement based on a balance of concessions by both sides.

Points of dispute: After refusing to have any sectoral discussions during the first three rounds, the Chinese finally relented and agreed to this compartmentalised approach during the fourth round on the clear understanding that the exercise would be limited to narrowing down the points of dispute and not settling them separately except as integral parts of a comprehensive accord covering all aspects.

But the attempt to carry forward this limited understanding to the stage of detailed sector by sector discussions floundered during the last round in Beijing, since the Chinese refused to concede the relevance of marked geographical features like watersheds, mountain passes and ridges to these discussions, maintaining that the Indian formulation in English meant differently in its Chinese translation.

Limited brief: The Indian delegation went to Beijing for the last round with a very limited brief because of the impending parliamentary elections. The Government was not inclined to engage in any in-depth discussions on the border dispute at that stage, since the very suggestion of far-reaching territorial concession, in the absence of a matching gestures by China, would have been highly embarrassing to it.

Now, the scenario has changed and the present Prime Minister would be willing to go more than half way in settling the border problem, if China is prepared to come forward with some meaningful proposals to enable him to negotiate a comprehensive settlement that is honourable to both sides. And the next rounds of official-level talks in early November assume importance in this particular context which will afford India an opportunity to gauge Chinese intentions.

CSO: 4600/1719

INDIA

MINISTER ON SOVIET COOPERATION IN OIL DRILLING

Madras THE HINDU in English 3 Sep 85 p 9

[Text] A Soviet team of oil technologists will arrive in Madras next week to start preparatory work on the search for oil and gas in the Cauvery basin, using for the first time in India what is called "intensified, integrated exploration technique". The drilling will be intensified under this technique and geological and seismic surveys, will all be integrated to achieve quick results with cost-effectiveness.

Speaking to newsmen, Mr. G. V. Ramakrishna, Secretary, Union Ministry of Petroleum, said here today that the Soviet team would be given several exclusive areas in the Cauvery basin where the ONGC is not working at the moment.

Answering a question he said that the team had been asked to carry out a time-bound programme and show results by the end of the Seventh Plan period. The credit of 350 million roubles for equipment and services would be utilised for exploration in the Cauvery and Cambay basins. Another feature of the agreement with the Soviets was that the exercise would not involve any sharing of oil or gas that may be struck, he said.

Spudding second well: The Secretary said that the ONGC which had successfully drilled two wells in Koikalappal and Narimanam in the Thanjavur district would spud its second well in Koikalappal in a few weeks. He expressed optimism about striking oil commercially in the Cauvery basin.

Speaking about offshore oil and gas prospects in the south, Mr. Ramakrishna said that a number of proposals for entrusting several blocks to foreign companies for exploration has been finalised. Attractive and equitable terms would be offered, considering the huge risk capital involved. Companies from a number of countries had signified their acceptance of the proposals. He expected the off-shore package to be ready by November.

Developing Bassein fields: Mr. Ramakrishna announced plans for developing and producing 20 million cubic metres of gas a day from the South Bassein fields (Bombay High) in two stages.

About indigenisation efforts in the manufacture of drilling equipment, he said proposals from the private sector offering equipment and services would be considered if the companies had tie-up with the U.S. or other foreign equipment manufacturers for progressive manufacture in India.

The Union Secretary stressed that foreign companies would be brought in only where the ONGC was not working, in the matter of onshore or offshore exploration. The association of foreign companies with part of the exploration work would leave the ONGC with enough funds for work in its areas and the offshore areas in and around the Andaman and Nicobar islands would be left to the ONGC.

Mr. Ramakrishna emphasised the need for accelerated oil exploration and development in the country.

CSO: 4600/1723

INDIA

FOREIGN TRADE SITUATION REPORTED TO IMPROVE

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Sep 85 p 7

[Text] India's foreign trade situation has improved during 1984-85, especially in the sphere of exports, resulting in a decline in the balance of trade deficit.

According to provisional figures available, India's exports and imports for 1984-85 were Rs. 11,395.85 crore and Rs. 15,951.86 crore respectively.

When compared with the export of Rs. 9,168.25 crore and import of Rs. 15,382.16 crore during 1983-84, exports during 1984-85 registered a rise of 20.4 per cent, and imports a rise of 7.9 per cent, thus reducing the balance of trade deficit during the year to Rs. 5,196 crore from Rs. 5,914 crore in 1983-84.

The exports at the present level of Rs. 11,396 crore during 1984-85, have already exceeded the target of Rs. 11,127 crore.

India's export performance is considered creditable in the wake of continued difficult position in the international trade environment.

The monthly trend also revealed that exports and imports during April this year registered an increase of 49.2 per cent 40.7 per cent respectively as compared to the corresponding figures for April 1984.

This substantial rise is attributed to the comparatively low provisional figures of exports and imports during April last year, the month which was partly affected by the ports strike.

The provisional data for the first nine months of 1984-85, as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year suggest comparatively better export performance for a number of items.

They include tea, spices, rice, cotton fabrics, chemical and allied products and artwares and artworks of handicrafts.

The crude oil export from Bombay High registred a rise about 53 per cent. Exports of engineering goods like machinery and transport equipment and metal manufacturers, which did not do well the previous year, picked up.

Gems Lose

Gems and jewellery, which registered a record increase during 1983-84, however, suffered a set-back. The other principal items, which showed considerable decline in exports during 1984-85, include sugar, raw cotton, petroleum products and ores. There was also a small decline in the export of coffee, fish and oil cakes.

The trends in import during the first nine months of 1984-85 indicate a significant increase in the imports of major product groups such as vegetable oils, fertilisers, pearls, precious and semi-precious stones and chemicals and chemical materials products.

There was, however, a decline in the imports of a number of products including cereals and cereal preparations, machinery and transport equipment, iron and steel, and cement.

The gross imports of crude oil and petroleum products also indicated a rise.

CSO: 4600/1720

INDIA

REPORT ON MEETING OF INDO-NEPAL COMMITTEE

Madras THE HINDU in English 31 Aug 85 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Aug. 30.

India will supply coal to Nepal and liberalise further duty-free access to Nepalese industrial products by exempting five more goods in the leather sector from proforma procedures. This was agreed to by the Indo-Nepal inter governmental committee, which concluded its four-day meeting here today.

According to the agreed minutes, signed by Mr. Prem Kumar, Union Commerce Secretary and his Nepalese counterpart, Mr. D. P. Gautam, coal supplies will be effected through public sector agencies in both countries under a new system to be introduced.

The meeting noted with satisfaction that trade had continued to rise in the last two years under the aegis of the mutual system of preferential access but felt that a concrete programme should be worked out to increase and diversify commercial exchanges and to aug-

ment Nepalese production and export base.

It was felt that the terms of access to each other's markets should be constantly improved and supply of scarce bulk commodities by India rationalised further.

It was noted both the Governments had committed themselves to a positive approach to promotion of joint ventures, which would add a new dimension to their economic and commercial relations. The areas for such joint ventures had been identified and both sides agreed to take necessary supportive measures to create a favourable framework. A concrete programme for undertaking and encouraging feasibility studies for certain projects and organising an Indo-Nepal investment promotion meeting was agreed upon.

The two sides agreed to monitor and check unauthorised trade across the border and intensify vigilance and exchange of information. Discussions were also held on rationalisation of transit facilities.

CSP: 4600/1718

INDIA

REPORTAGE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN ASSAM SITUATION

Home Minister's Clarification

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 4 Sep 85 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, Sept. 3--Mr Asoke Sen, Union Minister for Law and Justice, said today that according to the Assam accord, the disenfranchised foreign nationals would enjoy all the benefits and rights which they were enjoying earlier except their right to vote.

In a statement here, Mr Sen said the foreign nationals who had entered the State between January 1, 1961 and March 24, 1971 would be disenfranchised for a period of 10 years after the forthcoming elections in the State, but after 10 years, they would also have the right to vote. Before the 10 years expired, they would have the right to work, to live, to earn and also to carry on their normal occupation.

The Minister said thousands of people in England were residents but not citizens. Thousands of people in the USA were green-card holders as residents, but they were not citizens.

Mr Sen said there was a good deal of misunderstanding in regard to the Assam accord in the minds of those who had come to Assam and had made it their home. He explained that there was no question of those who had come to Assam before 1966 being expelled or disenfranchised.

The Home Minister had made it clear on the floor of the Lok Sabha that those who had come between January 1, 1966 and March 24, 1971 would continue to enjoy all the benefits and rights which they were enjoying before, namely the rights of residents as also the right to vote in the present elections. Their detection could only start after the present election and their inability to vote would arise only after the present election for a period of 10 years.

UNI adds: The Assam Government has taken various steps for speedy implementation of the accord on the foreign nationals issue, according to the Chief Minister, Mr Hiteswar Saikia.

Mr Saikia told reporters in Guwahati on his return from Delhi that the State Cabinet discussed the accord today and decided to implement it speedily.

Accordingly, the Government had directed the police department to suggest measures in this regard.

He said barring the prohibitory orders under Section 144 Cr PC other measures, taken in the wake of the agitation to maintain law and order, had been withdrawn. The Government had directed the deputy commissioners to decide whether the prohibitory orders could be withdrawn depending on the situation.

Normal life was disrupted in Cachar district today following a dawn-to-dusk bandh called by the Barak Valley Students' Union to protest against the Assam accord.

The bandh passed off peacefully according to official sources.

Four minority organizations today rejected the Assam accord. At a joint meeting of the representatives of the Assam Citizens' Right Preservation Committee, the Assam State Jamiat-ul-Ulema-e-Hind, the Assam Minority Students Union and the Assam Minority Forum Students Union said that the accord would bring "disaster" to all sections of people of Assam in general and the linguistic and ethnic minorities in particular.

Three tribal students' unions today opposed the Assam accord saying that instead of solving the foreigners problem it would create division among the people.

Poor Response to Merger Move

Madras THE HINDU in English 5 Sep 85 p 7

[Text] Guwahati, Sept. 4. The attempts initiated by AASU to secure the coming together of all regional political parties of Assam on a common political platform have come to a nought.

The preparatory committee appointed at the AASU sponsored national convention in November last to strive for such a unity appears to have made no headway and it is unlikely that any of the regional parties of the State will merge with the political party, that will be born at the political convention scheduled to be held at Golaghat from October 12 to 14.

Meanwhile the Assam Jatiyatabadi Dal (AJD) a regional party and a component of the All-Assam Gana Sangam Parishad (AAGSP) has announced that it would take part in the coming elections to the Assam Assembly and the Lok Sabha in the State.

Addressing a press conference the party leader, Mr Dinesh Goswami said the party would however, ensure that there was no division among the pro-agitation forces.

He said the defeat of the Congress (I) must be ensured. Answering to questions Mr. Goswami said that his party was prepared to come together with other parties

if that would serve the chief aim of the party viz. the establishment of a pro-agitation Government at Dispur. He however, refused to go into the question of unity with the yet-to-be-born political party on the ground that it was purely hypothetical.

The AJD, which has been a camp follower of AASU, in the last six years of the foreigners national agitation has realised that it should go alone.

The PLP has for long been only an observer at these discussions. The PTCA (Plains Tribal Council of Assam) has demanded support to its call for a Plains Tribal State of Udyachal in return for its support to the AASU moves, a concession which the AASU cannot make. The Kabianglong People's Conference, a district-based party is itself in the process of being absorbed into the Congress (I).

AATSU's demand: The All-Assam Tribal Students' Union (AATSU) has criticised the Assam accord which it says is designed to prolong the basic problems of Assam or for the political interests of the ruling party at the Centre and the Chauvinistic forces in the State.

Characterising the accord as "a deal between the Assamese, caste-Hindu ruling clique and the Centre" the AATSU leaders said the accord had left unresolved the basic questions which initially gave rise to the stir.

According to the AATSU leaders, the Assam agitation which began with the slogan of protection and preservation of the indigenous people should have concerned itself with the problem of the really indigenous people of the State viz the tribal people. The All-Assam Tribal students' organisation was formed in May 1980 during the early phase of the Assam stir. It was even seen as a move to weaken the apex students organisation AASU though initially there were efforts on both sides to come together.

The AATSU leaders maintain that they were willing to extend cooperation to the Assam agitation provided AASU was willing to support the tribals' demands. These continue to be basically: (1) creation of autonomous districts and regions under the provisions of the Sixth Schedule in the tribal-inhabited areas, (2) recognition of all-tribal languages as media of instruction with the choice of script being left to organisations promoting these languages and (3) abolition of the distinction between hill tribes and plain tribes in the north-east and the recognition of all tribals of the region as Scheduled Tribes.

At present the tribals are recognised as Scheduled Tribes only in their original areas.

The AATSU leaders said that in the coming elections they would oppose both the ruling party and the agitation forces. The beneficiary of such a stand will probably be the ruling party.

CSO: 4600/1721

INDIA

CONGRESS TREATMENT OF FACTIONS IN PUNJAB POLL NOTED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 Sep 85 p 1

[Text] The followers of the two major factional leaders, President Zail Singh and Mr Darbara Singh, have been scrupulously kept out of the Congress list of candidates for the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in Punjab.

This seems consistent with Rajiv Gandhi's estimate that Congress factional squabbles contributed much to the deterioration of the situation in Punjab over the last three years. It was also because of this that the Prime Minister had kept Mr Zail Singh, Mr Darbara Singh and other factional leaders out of the negotiations with the Akalis.

An independent review of the Punjab developments over the last three years made it abundantly clear that not only did the continuing factional fights of senior Congress leaders in Punjab make an accord with the Akalis impossible but these further complicated the already complex situation in the State.

Therefore, it was decided to keep Mr Zail Singh and Mr Darbara Singh both out of the negotiations with the Akalis. In fact, even those Central leaders who were initially involved in the negotiations but were felt to be influenced by these factional squabbles were also pulled out of the talks which were handled by others free from pre-conceived notions and biases.

The approach paid handsomely as was evident from the signing of the Punjab accord. Consistent with this approach, a conscious effort was made to keep the second rank leaders of the major factions out of the party's election list.

As many as 26 of the 63 sitting Congress MLAs have been dropped from the party list. Eighty of the 117 Congress candidates are new to the poll fray, many of them from the Youth Congress, the Mahila Congress and other party front organizations. They appear light-weight because of their being new to the election fray but party sources say that most of them have solid support within the party rank and file and the fact that they are new ensures that they are free from any controversy with the local populace and the party unit.

Party leaders in Delhi believe that the appearance of the new generation of legislators will not only help in the smooth functioning of the Government but also serve to create an atmosphere of accord and harmony in Punjab.

AICC general secretary Srikant Verma has refuted suggestions that the Congress is not keen to win the Assembly elections in Punjab and that is why it is fielding "Weak candidates" to ensure an Akali victory.

"We do not think that the polling booth is the best place for a political party to commit harakiri", Mr Verma said. He was reacting to some newspaper reports that there has been a "secret understanding" between the Congress and the Akali Dal whereby the Congress would be given most of the Lok Sabha seats by the Akalis and the former would let the latter win a majority in the Assembly.

Mr Verma also refuted suggestions that the voting in the elections would be on communal lines with the Congress capturing most of the Hindu votes.

Our Staff Correspondent adds from Chandigarh: Four former PCC chiefs, Mohinder Singh Gill, Darbara Singh, Santokh Singh Randhawa and Hans Raj Sharma, do not figure in the list of Congress candidates.

Others denied tickets included former ministers Harcharan Singh Ajnala, Sardari Lal Kapur, Birpaul Singh, Bhagwan Das and Ujagar Singh Balluana, all of whom belong to the faction led by former Chief Minister Darbara Singh.

Also axed are members of President Zail Singh's faction. The President's nephew and PPCC general secretary Basant Singh and Mr Ram Singla, former political secretary to the President have also been denied party tickets.

Among those who have been rehabilitated are former minister Umrao Singh who returned to the Congress fold after a brief stint with the Congress-U.

Another old guard, Mohan Lal has also been granted a ticket for the State Vidhan Sabha seat from Hoshiarpur.

Political experts, however, are puzzled over the denial of a party ticket to Birpaul Singh, who had severed his ties with Mr Darbara Singh immediately after the State Government was toppled in October 1983, and who is known to enjoy the confidence of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Mr Birpaul Singh's seat has gone to Gurbir Singh Bakku, son of former Chief Minister Justice Gurnam Singh. Mr Gurbir Singh has been rewarded for the role he played in getting the late Mr Harchand Singh Longowal and State Governor Arjun Singh across the table at his residence.

Others who have been denied party tickets include chairman of the Punjab Agriculture Marketing Board Chaudhry Darshan Singh, a right-hand man of Mr Darbara Singh and Gopal Krishan Chatrath whose political career came under shadow in the famous Gurinder Singh terrorist case. PPCC chief Santokh Singh Randhawa has also been axed for his alleged connections with Gurinder Singh.

The party list also excludes Jagdev Singh Jassowal and Ram Lal Chitti, president of the rural unit of the District Congress Committee in Jalandhar and chairman of Punjab Housing Development Board.

CSO: 4600/1722

IRAN

JOINT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO BE ESTABLISHED WITH USSR

Tehran BURS in Persian 6 Aug 85 pp 1-2

[Text] The Chief of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Mines provided the media with information on his recent trip to the Soviet Union and Hungary. According to the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY, Engineer 'Alinaqi Khamushi, Chief of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Mines, began by explaining the policies and procedures of the Iran Chamber of Commerce with regard to recent guidance from the Imam of the Nation, who has said that there are no restrictions on the expansion of Iran's relations with other countries. He said: Pertaining to this, the chamber began by sending letters to the country's high-ranking officials in order to establish procedures. An eight-person delegation which included representatives of the dried fruits and tricot unions went to the Soviet Union and Hungary on 24 Tir [15 July]. He added: In view of the trip by Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam va-ol-Moslemin Hashemi Rafsanjani to China and Japan, the Soviet officials were very friendly to the Iranian delegation. In meetings and talks with officials of the Soviet Chamber of Commerce, which has more than 13,000 personnel, the expansion of commercial and industrial relations between the two countries was discussed. Officials of the Soviet Chamber of Commerce suggested that the previously anticipated Joint Chamber of Commerce be expanded. Regarding this, it was decided that steps would be taken after determining the membership of the chamber and electing its board of directors. Concerning the expansion of economic relations between Iran and the Soviet Union, the Chief of the Chamber of Commerce said: In view of the changes which have been made recently in the Soviet economic plan, we can import iron products, wood, paper, chemical products, sugar, and other things from that country in return for the export of industrial, traditional, and petroleum products by taking advantage of the situation.

He noted: In view of the Soviet Union's five-year plan, during this period Iran can export 500 million dollars worth of goods to that country every year, and this figure can be increased to one billion dollars.

Concerning his trip to Hungary, which took place on 28 Tir [19 July], he said: During its stay in Hungary the delegation from the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Mines held talks with an aide from the Hungarian Ministry of Finance concerning the expansion of commercial relations between the two countries involving the light bulb, aluminum, and textile industries. In addition, the delegation visited a cooperative company. He added: The Iranian delegation also held very useful talks with members of the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and factory and commercial managers, in which it was agreed that in exchange for exporting refrigeration implements and spare parts to Iran, Hungary will purchase refrigeration implements such as refrigerators and freezers from Iran. Likewise there was a 12 million dollar agreement under which Hungary agreed to purchase tricot from Iran, along with other goods from Iran.

In conclusion he said that the trade ceiling between the two countries will be 300 million dollars per year with the possibility for increase and expansion. He called upon industrial leaders in our country to travel to the aforementioned countries in order to find export markets for their goods and procure the things needed by their units.

9310

CSO: 4640/712

IRAN

REASONS FOR RESUMPTION OF IRAN-SUDANESE TIES ELABORATED

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 15 Aug 85 p 3

[Text] Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, the political undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran, after his return as the head of a mission to Sudan, elaborated on the reasons for the resumption of Iran-Sudanese relations in an interview with the IRNA reporter. He said: "After the victory of the Islamic revolution, our foreign policy was based on better relations with the world's nations especially Muslim and African nations. The main factor for the non-existence of relations with Sudan after the victory of the Islamic revolution was Numayri. Despite the people's knowledge about this country and the gains of the revolution, in announcing support for Saddam in the imposed war, Sudan closed its embassy in Tehran. As a result, our relations with the Sudanese people, who have a splendid record in the Islamic campaign against colonizers and for the expansion of Islam in Africa, were interrupted."

He added: "Sudan is an extensive Islamic, Arab, and African state. It is the junction of these three Islamic, Arab and African cultures. It has been the target of European colonizers since old times and at present is the target of the enemies of Islam. Since Sudan has always been the gate for exporting Islam to the oppressed nations of the southern black continent and has especially crusaded against the British, it is among the glories of the history of Islam in Africa."

The political undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs added: "After the fall of the Numayri regime, the establishment of a transitional military council and the transfer of government to Al-Juzuli Daf'allah, the present prime minister who was one of the fighters who never agreed with Numayri and was in Numayri's prison until his fall, the necessary conditions were prepared for the resumption of the two nations' relations. Certainly new conditions also created possibilities for the resumption of official relations between the two countries, among them the change of Sudanese policy in regard to the imposed war, which during Numayri's rule, was advanced to the extent of declaring official war and allowed Saddam the compulsory dispatch of Sudanese nationals to the war front. In addition, the new government proceeded toward more political independence by creating more balance in its foreign policy by declaring that it would not participate in the Shining Star maneuvers and also its Iran-Sudan political contacts."

Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam in regard to his negotiations with Sudanese high officials said: "In their negotiations, the Sudanese high officials expressed their delight at the resumption of relations with the Islamic Republic and reopening embassies in the two countries. One of our officials remained in Khartoum to prepare the embassy's opening." Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam also said: "The Muslim nation of Sudan is facing abundant economic difficulties, among them, the problems resulting from famine. Therefore questions about exchanging goods between the two countries, technical cooperation, and Iran's readiness for any kind of aid especially in regard to specialists was discussed. It was agreed that these questions be studied by specialists of both countries." He added: "In this regard, the sale of oil with financial facilities and assurances of sending aid to the famine-stricken people of Sudan was appreciated by the Sudanese officials."

Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam also stated: "Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister and Dr Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs have invited the Sudanese prime minister and the minister of foreign affairs to Iran and they have accepted this invitation with pleasure."

9815

CSO: 4640/700

IRAN

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX DROPS

Tehran BURS in Persian 31 Jul 85 pp 1-2

[Text] According to a report from the Central Bank's Office of Economic Statistics, the wholesale price index in Iran in Khordad of 1364 [22 May - 21 June 1985] was 400.9, a one percent drop from the previous month. This is a 0.3 percent decrease over the same period last year. The seasonally adjusted wholesale price index is 0.6 percent lower than in the month of Ordibehesht 1364 [21 Apr - 21 May 1985].

In the first three months of the current year [21 Mar - 21 Jun 1985] the average wholesale price index in Iran increased 5.4 percent over the same period the previous year.

The seasonal decrease in the price of fresh vegetables, along with decreases in the price of barley, red meat, livestock, hides, paper, photographic paper, and carpets played the biggest part in lowering the wholesale price indicator. At the same time prices increased for wheat, wheat flour, rice, fruits (except citrus fruits), cotton seeds, unginned and ginned cotton, cement, and blankets, offsetting to some extent the price decreases for the items above.

1 - Goods Produced and Consumed in the Country

During the month reported, the indicator for goods produced and consumed in the country was 451.5, a decrease of 1.3 percent over the previous month.

The decrease in the price indicator for goods produced and consumed in the country was mainly due to decreases in the prices of fresh vegetables. Within this group there were decreases in the prices of barley, red meat, livestock, hides and carpets, but the prices of wheat, wheat flour, rice, fruits (except citrus fruits), cotton seeds, ginned and unginned cotton, cement and blankets increased.

The seasonally adjusted price indicator for goods produced and consumed in the country decreased 1.1 percent from the previous month.

The indicator for this group decreased 1.4 percent from the same month the previous year.

2 - Imported Goods

The price indicator for imported goods in Khordad of 1364 [22 May - 21 June 1985] remained stable because increases in the prices of lace and braid, spare parts, and vehicles were offset by decreases in the prices of paper and photographic paper. The seasonally adjusted indicator for this group increased 4.4 percent over the same month the previous year.

3 - Exported Goods

Increases in the prices of dried fruits were offset by decreases in carpet prices, resulting in no change in the indicator for exported goods during this month.

The seasonally adjusted price indicator for this group increased 1.9 percent over the previous month, and 0.1 percent over the same month the previous year.

Foodstuffs and Livestock

The 30.1 percent seasonal decrease in the prices of fresh vegetables has the biggest effect on the 1.9 percent decrease in the foodstuffs and livestock price indicator. In this group the prices of meat, poultry and fish and their products decreased 1.8 percent, 12.5 percent for citrus fruits, 0.7 percent for animal and vegetable oils, and 2.1 percent for livestock. However, the prices of seeds and seed products increased 2.7 percent, grains 0.1 percent, eggs and dairy products 0.4 percent, fruits with seeds and pits 1.4 percent, melons 15.7 percent, dried fruits 2.7 percent, and 2.1 percent for spices, tea, coffee, and cocoa. The seasonally adjusted indicator for this group was unchanged compared to the previous month, and it decreased 3.8 percent over the same month last year.

Textiles and Clothing

The 1.6 percent decrease in carpet prices was the only factor leading to the 0.2 percent decrease in the price indicator for textiles and clothing. In this group the prices of wool and cotton increased 0.9 percent. The seasonally adjusted price indicator for textiles increased 0.8 percent compared to the previous month, and decreased 2.3 percent over the same month the previous year.

Machinery and Transportation Equipment

In this month there was no change in the prices for machinery and transportation equipment. Within this group, household electrical appliances decreased 0.2 percent and non-electronic machinery increased 0.1 percent. This indicator increased 2.8 percent over the same month the previous year.

Agricultural and Livestock Products

The price indicator for agricultural and livestock products decreased 2.2 percent during this month, as a result of the 2.3 percent decrease in the indicator for the agriculture group and the 2.0 percent decrease in the indicator for animal husbandry and fisheries prices. The seasonally adjusted indicator for this group decreased 1.5 percent over the previous month, and 4.9 percent over the same month the previous year.

Construction Materials

In the month reported, the indicator for the construction materials group increased 0.3 percent, which was the result of the 0.1 percent increase in the price of metal construction materials and the 0.5 percent increase in the price of non-metallic construction materials.

The seasonally adjusted price indicator for construction materials remained unchanged from the previous month, and was 6.4 percent higher than the same month the previous year.

9310

CSO: 4640/712

IRAN

MILLIYET: MURDERED COLONEL WAS PLANNING ATTACK ON KHOMEYNI

NC081308 Paris AFP in English 1254 GMT 8 Sep 85

[Text] Istanbul, Sep 8 (AFP)--A former colonel in the Iranian police who was found murdered here last month was planning an attack on Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, the Turkish liberal daily MILLIYET reported today, quoting sources close to the Turkish intelligence services.

According to the paper, Colonel Behruz Shahverdi, whose body was found at his home here on August 20, was one of the leaders of the Iranian national resistance movement directed from Paris by the shah's former prime minister, Shapur Bakhtiar.

Col Shahverdi arrived in Turkey in 1983, and was charged with liaising between resistance headquarters and dissidents inside Iran, which borders eastern Turkey, MILLIYET said.

The paper said he was betrayed by a messenger smuggling funds into Iran, who was in reality a double-agent, working for the Islamic Republic's secret police, the Savama.

The day after his killing, the Turkish police indicated that the colonel himself was a double agent. In fact, he had been suspected of this earlier by the leaders of the Iranian opposition movement and had been summoned to Paris to explain himself, MILLIYET said.

He was able to clear himself of suspicion, and was then instructed to find out who was betraying the movement from within and try to send the double agent to Paris, it reported.

He was assassinated shortly afterwards by several pistol shots in the head, it said. The killer has still not been identified or located.

His funeral took place here yesterday, attended by his widow and daughter and several opponents of the Iranian regime, who came from Paris and carried the symbol of the exiled opposition movement. His coffin was draped with the Iranian imperial flag.

CS0: 4600/630

IRAN

TABRIZ RADIO QUESTIONS EXPULSIONS FROM KUWAIT

GF101429 Tabriz International Service in Azeri 1830 GMT 9 Sep 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners, Kuwait expelled many of the Muslims living in that country during the past few months on the pretext that they threatened Kuwait's security. Those who have been expelled are Iranians, Iraqis, Syrians, Lebanese, and Palestinians. The reason for their expulsion is that they are all Muslims. Insofar as the corrupt Al-Sabah family is concerned, the state of Muslimhood is tantamount to arrogance.

Although the Kuwaiti security officials are aware that the Iraqi regime is to blame for the terrorist attack on the Amir of Kuwait and the explosions, they have been reluctant to disclose the realities--preferring to keep the identities of those responsible a secret. In fact, in a press conference a few days ago, Foreign Minister al-Sabah defended the move made to keep secret the identity of those responsible for the attack on the amir and the explosions.

Regarding this state of affairs, we have established that the Kuwaiti security officials have imprisoned and tortured thousands of Muslims living in that country. The Muslims have been expelled after the security officials confiscated their property. Meanwhile, Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Khalid Jumay'an Salim al-Jumay'an has disclosed that he was considering the question of reemploying foreign workers. He said: We are trying to resolve the question of reemployment of foreign workers.

At this point we must ask Minister of Labor Khalid al-Jumay'an, who claims to prefer employing Arab workers instead of foreign workers, the following questions:

Are not Iraqi, Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestinian citizens Arabs? If they are regarded as Arabs, then what is the reason for their expulsion? Do you not prefer to have Arab workers employed instead of foreign workers? Why are Iranian workers regarded as foreign and forced to leave Kuwait? What are the reasons for their expulsion? Are workers and experts from the United States, Korea, the Philippines, Pakistan, Europe, and India not regarded as foreign? Why are you not expelling them from Kuwait as well? Why is the Kuwaiti

minister of labor not expelling Americans and Zionist experts employed by foreign companies in Kuwait and by the Kuwaiti Ministry of Oil and Industry-- companies which carry out espionage activities in favor of the United States and Israel? What is the reason for the failure of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Labor in moving to expel the Americans in Kuwait who have [word indistinct] the Muslims and the Arabs? Why has the Kuwaiti Ministry of Labor not expelled 100,000 Asian workers? As asked by the people of Kuwait as well, why are the Korean workers, whose majority is [words indistinct], not being expelled from that country? Are they not threatening Kuwait's security?

Yes, the Kuwaiti minister of labor has to reply to these questions. Being Muslims, the workers referred to will not threaten Kuwait's security. The Muslims are opposed only to the reactionary regimes in the region. The reason for the expulsion of the Lebanese, Iraqis, Syrians, and Palestinians from Kuwait is what they actually are--Muslims and revolutionaries. Because they are opposed to Islam and the revolution, the reactionary Arab leaders have no dispute with the non-Muslims. Is it not true that the Muslim shaykhs of Kuwait have recently received the [words indistinct] company in Britain? Then how can they be described as Muslims?

CSO: 1831/429

IRAN

EGYPTIAN FUNDAMENTALIST EXPRESSES VIEWS ON VARIOUS ISSUES

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 8 Aug 85 p 3

[Text] Note—Despite having gained fame in the 1973 October Arab-Israeli war for standing against the Zionist army and for leading the city of Suez's resistance in Egypt, Sheikh Hafiz Salamah has kept a low profile on the Egyptian political scene during the past 12 years, but he became prominent again early this year when he called for the implementation of Islamic law in Egypt. He and his followers, who have formed a congregation at Cairo's Al-Nur Mosque, have called for a peaceful demonstration march to the Egyptian presidential palace to express their views to Mubarak. The Cairo prosecutor banned the march, but the insistence of Hafiz Salamah and his followers on delivering their message led to confrontations between him and his followers and the Cairo police. An order releasing Hafiz Salamah was issued yesterday by the Cairo court.

Up until now Salamah's group has not been mentioned among Egypt's active active Islamic political movements and groups. Islamic activities have been confined to those of the Muslim Brotherhood or its factions, but now Salamah is being discussed as a trend without connection to the brotherhood.

Prior to his arrest, Salamah's last interview was with the Arabic magazine AL-SHARA'. In this interview he discussed his views on various issues, including his relationship with the Muslim Brotherhood, the fight with Israel, the current Egyptian regime, and other matters. The text of the interview follows below.

KEYHAN Foreign Service—Do you believe that Egypt is ready socially and economically for the implementation of Islamic law?

Islamic law has been sent down by Almighty God, and with God's help we can solve all the difficulties and problems in accomplishing this. Do you think that anyone can deliver us from these difficulties except through what has been written in the Word of God?

All of us, Muslim and non-Muslim, believe in Almighty God, and God has power over all things.

In the eyes of the Islamic groups, today's society is considered a godless society. Therefore, why not implement Islamic law gradually? Whoever said that our society is a godless one is undoubtedly mistaken. Our society is an Islamic society, and it was governed according to the Word of God for 13 centuries before the British imperialists came to our country and separated us from the implementation of Islamic law. Therefore we, the Egyptian nation, just as was indicated in the last referendum in which 96.7 percent of the people called for the implementation of Islamic law, are insisting upon the implementation and enforcement of Islamic law.

Therefore, how can you say that this is a godless society that needs gradual implementation of Islamic law?

Should a timetable be established for implementing and enforcing Islamic law?

Islamic law is ready to be implemented, and with the help of God it can deliver us from the present situation. What is being said about the need for gradual implementation of Islamic law is worthless. We are calling for an Islamic Egypt which is governed according to the Book of God. Furthermore, we are calling for the establishment of an Islamic society in Islamic Egypt.

What is the truth about your contacts with the president, the President of the People's Council, and the Minister of the Interior concerning the stoppage of demonstrations and their threats of violence?

The contacts which took place between myself and high officials had to do with the idea that the climate is not right for this demonstration now. They promised that the question of implementing Islamic law would be studied in the People's Council in May.

When we realized that they were just buying time and being negligent, however, we asked judicial officials to give an opinion on this matter, and we are planning to ask the president to use his legal authority to introduce a bill before the people's council for the implementation of Islamic law. We have not exceeded the law; we have only asked the president, as the this country's top official, to carry this out.

Do you believe that a green march is considered a possible way to bring about the implementation of Islamic law?

No, this demonstration is not an end in itself, it is a means to an end.

Do you have other plans?

We will hold a press conference for this purpose.

Do you see this conference as a solution, or as a means to an end? Moreover, will the green march be cancelled?

We see the conference as a means to an end. Furthermore, the green march is now being studied in court, and the conference has been planned as a substitute for the march.

What is your view of the idea that a society and a government that are not committed or useful to Islamic teachings should be declared unbelieving?

When they said that this is a godless society, we said that this is wrong. We will not declare any Muslim an unbeliever who says there is no God but God and the Mohammad is his prophet, unless he is observed by someone behaving like an unbeliever.

Will you conduct yourself according to the system of Islamic Law?

We are not implementers of Islamic law, and we call upon those who are to establish a situation based on Islamic law. We must make a difference, however, between what those who implement Islamic law do and what is done by the people's council. The people's council does its work through legal channels.

Do you accept Article Two of the Constitution, which says that the basis for establishing Islamic law is Islamic law?

Absolutely.

Don't you think what you say is contradictory? On the one hand you call for the implementation of Islamic law, and you accept the idea that this Islamic law is not the only basis for law-making, but it is the chief and basic source for it. Therefore, while you are calling for Islamic law, how can you accept the constitution and the laws derived from it, when Islamic law rejects the Constitution and all the laws derived from it?

The Constitution says that the Islamic law is the chief basis for law-making, and when Islamic laws are approved by law-making committees, then these laws will determine the fate and the necessary nature of the Constitution and other laws.

Why don't you appeal to the people with propaganda?

The nation has expressed its wishes whenever the question has arisen.

They say that severe differences have arisen between yourself and the Wafd Party, and that these differences have led to the issuance of a statement by Fuad Saraj al-Din, the president of this party. In the statement he rejects the demonstration and adds: This demonstration, whose purpose is to arouse popular sentiment, is motivated by things that do not have the slightest connection with Islamic law.

What is your view of this, and what are the motivations referred to by the president of the Wafd Party?

First, I have no connection with the president of the Wafd Party.

Second, during the last elections, I was asked to make myself a candidate under the charters of the Wafd Party, the National Party, and the Worker's Party, and I rejected all of these requests. The request from the Wafd Party was very insistent, but I said I do not wish to become aligned with any party.

You are accused of disregarding the legislative powers by appealing directly to the president for implementation of Islamic law. What is your answer to this accusation?

Tell whoever said this that according to article 109 of the Constitution, the president and the members of the People's Council must present the bill on Islamic law to the Majlis.

Do you think that the Wafd Party's call for the implementation of Islamic law is in accord with your program?

We are calling for the implementation of Islamic law. We say that whoever supports this demand and works for our objectives will receive their reward from God. We have nothing to do with whoever is not with us.

Was your hesitation in holding the demonstration caused by the warning from the Ministry of the Interior to stop the demonstration?

We postponed this demonstration to prevent bloodshed. We realized that the demonstrators would be attacked, and furthermore, that they wanted to undermine the value of this demonstration.

What is your position on democracy and multiple parties?

We are not discussing parties or the lack of them. We are simply calling for the implementation of Islamic law, and when this is implemented, we will pray for them.

What is your position on other political forces, such as the Naserists, the communists, and the Wafd Party?

We welcome whoever accepts Islam, and we do not accept anyone who does not.

What do you have to say about the sending of employees from the Ministry of Religious Endowments to the al-Nur Mosque?

This building is not a mosque. We have not yet begun building a mosque. This is a school yard, the place where we pray is not a mosque.

Has this been established by law?

We have prepared a paper to establish this for the police.

Why don't you establish a direct relationship between yourselves and officials from the Ministry of the Interior, to prevent further confrontations in the future?

Say on our behalf that we are ready to shake the hand of sincere people from this country.

Why don't you initiate this?

You may initiate this in my name.

In an interview with the magazine AL-MUSAWWAR, you said that the experience in The Sudan and Iran with regard to the implementation of Islamic law is considered a mistake, and you gave some ideas on the implementation of Islamic law in Egypt. What are these ideas?

First, the interview printed in the magazine AL-MUSAWWAR is distorted and untrue.

Second, I said that Islamic law has nothing to do with someone who has mistakenly implemented it. Islamic law has been sent down by God. If a mistake is made in implementing and establishing it, the mistake is that of the implementer. There is nothing wrong with Islamic law itself.

Do you think the Iran experience can be implemented and carried out in Egypt?

I have said that I do not have correct information concerning the experience of the Iranians, because the media here gives dark and vague information concerning events in Iran. Furthermore, a great many of the world's media sources are against the Iranian revolution because the Iranian revolution was Islamic. Therefore, I do not have correct information concerning events in Iran.

What is your view of events in Pakistan?

Brother Zia ol-Haq has made a good beginning, and I wish him the utmost success.

After your participation in the Suez War, you were given an award by Sadat. He then arrested you some time later. Did you act against Sadat, and did you have relations with the Jihad Organization?

First, I had no relationship of any kind with Anwar Sadat. When this award was given to me, I refrained from accepting it for two months, but I was obliged to accept it. Furthermore, there is no conflict between myself and our leaders. Our disagreement is that the truth must be told, and there is no reason to fear complaints.

The Muslim Brotherhood movement is a political one which aims to gain political power, and the reason for this is their coalition with the ousted Sudan regime against all the national forces which had risen against the regime and the Muslim Brotherhood. What is your view of this issue?

Brother 'Omar Talimsani is the spokesman for the Moslem Brotherhood, and you can ask this question of him.

They say that there are severe differences between yourself and the Muslim Brotherhood leaders over your call for a green march. What is the truth of the matter?

No differences of any kind have arisen between myself and the Muslim Brotherhood. We are all brothers, and if any of us succeeds with some task, I hope God will make him more successful than before.

What have been the repercussions of the acceptance of the call of officials for a delay in the demonstration? Second, when you called upon the praying congregation to hold their Korans down and leave the mosque separately, all of them did not follow. Some held their Korans up in their hands. Do you consider this a rejection of your request by the people?

When I called upon the people to demonstrate, they did so. When I decided to postpone the demonstration, I found no one who objected. At the same time I said that a pretext must not be given to those who have ill will towards Islamic groups, because if a bloody confrontation were to take place between people praying and the police, the Muslim groups would be accused of terrorism and extremism. All I have done is to prevent bloodshed. I want to protect both the police and non-police brothers from bloodshed.

Haven't those calling for the implementation of Islamic law who say they will accuse President Mubarak and the current representatives of the People's Council of not implementing Islamic law made their choice already?

I did not say that Mubarak has not implemented Islamic law. I say that we are insisting that the president establish Islamic law.

Do you expect the government to take extreme and violent measures to stop the activities of the Islamic groups?

I am presenting this issue to everyone, and am acting according to law. Any activity against the Islamic groups will be considered an illegal act of aggression.

In his third letter to King Faruq, Hasan al-Naba wrote: My reason for submitting this letter to Your Majesty is my great desire to have you explain to the nation why God has placed the reigns of power in your hands. In these terms, in your view what are the grounds for the Muslim Brotherhood being in alliance with a regime which claims power as a divine trust?

I agree with Hasan al-Naba said concerning this, and just as he extended his hand to the political leadership asking for implementation of Islamic law, I will extend my hand for the implementation and enforcement of Islamic law.

But wasn't Faruq an oppressor?

Mr Hosni Mubarak is now in Egypt. Isn't there opposition to his presidency?

Isn't there opposition to his acting as spokesman for Egypt? Therefore, when express our desire to have something done, we will choose no one other than him as the president.

Islamic law will not be legal unless the people are considered its source. Despite the fact that 'Omar Ibn Khatab was one of the people, he said: If you see me violating the law, make me aware of my mistake. Someone in the crowd answered: If we see a violation of the law, we will make you aware of it with swords. What is your view of this?

I have already answered this question in answers to previous questions.

What is your view of the Arab-Israeli conflict?

We are proclaiming the truth. They have taken our rights, and these rights must be returned to us. There can be no talk of taking these rights back peacefully or non-peacefully. What has been taken by force cannot be recovered except through force.

Why didn't Islamic groups take part in activities against the normalization of the Israeli presence in the country, such as those at the Cairo International Book Fair, the Industry Fair, or the incidents at the Jewish Synagogue and on 'Adli Street?

Activities carried out by some will fall on the shoulders of others.

We would like a specific answer. Why didn't Islamic groups take part in activities against the normalization of the Israeli presence in the country?

This is a theological point.

Therefore, was Yusif Idris correct in asking Khalid Mohammad Khalid to talk concerning important matters such as a position on Israel?

Ask Yusif Idris where he was when the Jews entered the city of Suez and Golda Meir announced the city's occupation. And who stood against the Jews? I left the pulpit and took up arms. Where were Yusif Idris and the others then?

Israel is now holding a celebration in Cairo, and there is no difference between its presence in Suez or Cairo. Therefore, what are you going to do to expel them?

In any case I say that all those who fought Israel in Suez and drove them out were Muslim.

In Suez, you bore arms against Israel. Are you prepared to bear arms for the implementation of Islamic law?

In Suez, imperialist powers had invaded our soil and were about to take our land and our country. I was thus obligated to bear arms to defend the country. However, the issue of Islamic law has arisen among brothers, and this matter will be resolved amicably.

Israel distorts the Koran and Arab literature. What position do the Islamic groups take on this?

In Saudi Arabia the largest Islamic institution prints and distributes the Koran throughout the world. In Egypt the institute for printing the Koran affiliated with Al-Azhar University was established. On this basis, with these institutions, we hope to thwart all plots by Israel and other countries who defile the sanctity and splendor of the Koran, and Almighty God, who protects and guards the Koran, will destroy these plots.

Last summer, an attempt was made to assassinate the Israeli military attaché, and last winter an attempt was made to destroy the Israeli embassy in Egypt. Do you think these things were done by Islamic groups?

I do not think anyone attributes these things to us. When I confront Israel, it will not be inside the country, but on the battlefield.

Why did the mufti approve the green march at first, but withdraw his approval later?

The mufti was right in his interview with the newspaper NUR, but security organizations told him that opposition forces were planning to join the demonstration and that this would lead to violence. The mufti thus did not withdraw his support. He said this is a legal demonstration for truth, but that he believes that the expression of this truth must be made some other way.

9310

CSO: 4640/714

IRAN

AFGHANS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST SAUDI AUTHORITIES

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 21 Aug 85 p 11

[Text] News Service—The plot to prevent Afghan participation in the Hajj rites which was secretly devised this year by the Saudi regime and the Afghanistan puppet regime was revealed in a JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI interview with several Afghan pilgrims.

Our correspondent reports that after the Marxist regime in Kabul prohibited Afghan Muslims from leaving Afghanistan to perform the Hajj rites and strictly prevented Muslims from attending the "political worship" rites of the Hajj, a number of Afghan pilgrims living in Iran prepared to go to the House of God, having gone through legal procedures and received permission from the Ministry of the Interior and prior approval from the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Tehran, but at the last minute the Saudi Arabian Embassy refused to issue them entry visas.

After this incident, about 1,500 Afghan pilgrims living in Iran gathered in front of the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Tehran with their visas and demanded an investigation of this matter as soon as possible. The Saudi Arabian Embassy, however, by failing to follow up on this and by postponing the issuance of the visas until the closure of the airport in Jedda, prevented these people from performing the Hajj rites. In so doing, by preventing the performance of obligatory worship by a number of Muslims, Saudi Arabia prevented the cry of oppression from the people of Afghanistan from being conveyed to pilgrims from other Muslim countries, and prevented the Muslims of the world from becoming aware of the secret plot between the superpowers of East and West to compromise over Afghanistan.

In this same connection, our correspondent interviewed several Afghan Muslim refugees. One of them, an old man, began by saying:

This year, officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the suggestion of Afghan Muslims bound to perform the Hajj and wishing to fulfill their Islamic duty, decided to make arrangements for the participation of a number of Afghan Muslim pilgrims in the performance of the religious duty of "political worship" at the great Hajj congress. To a certain extent travel arrangements were made with the necessary cooperation between officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the embassy of the Saudi regime. The concerned Iranian officials arranged for the issuance of visas, health certificates, group assignments, housing arrangements in Saudi Arabia, and other things. The united Muslim people of Afghanistan waited with indescribable longing to participate in the great gathering of millions of Muslims from throughout the world, counting the minutes, in order thereby to raise the cry of torment for the nation of Afghanistan rebelling against against the savagery of world imperialism beside the great House of God and the sacred sepulcher of God's Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) and the chaste imams, and in order to make the minds of the

Muslims of the world aware of their sacred and heroic defense of the sacred sanctuary of Islam against the atheists of the East. Unfortunately, they were faced with the failure to issue visas, which was actually a clear prohibition of Muslims from performing their religious obligations on the part of Saudi Arabian Embassy officials in Tehran.

He added: However, this is not the first time, nor will it be the last, when Muslims of the world have witnessed the Saudi regime's failure to properly adhere to the clear commands of the Koran and Islam, because last year the Saudi regime denied visas to Lebanese mojahedin and Muslims who played and continue to play a worthy role in defeating the enemies of Islam and the multi-national forces, especially the usurper Zionists, using tricks limited to soldiers.

Another refugee told our correspondent: The failure to issue visas to Afghan Muslim pilgrims took place at a time when on the one hand Babrak Karmal's Marxist puppet regime has strictly prohibited Afghan Muslims from going to great Mecca and luminous Medina, and it was shamelessly and officially announced on Kabul radio that no one had the right to go to the House of God. On the other hand we are on the threshold of collusion and renewed collaboration between the two criminal superpowers America and the Soviet Union with involvement by the United Nations and inappropriate maneuvers by the Pakistan regime on the Afghanistan issue and in the absence of the true representatives of the country's Muslims. Although the combatant and Muslim representatives of the nation of Afghanistan have often declared their clear positions on this kind of fiendishness on the part of the world-devouring East and West, they have rejected any kind of political solution or talks on the Afghanistan issue without the presence of representatives of the nation of Afghanistan, but again we are seeing shameful and fruitless behind-the-scenes collaboration between East and West. No doubt remains that the failure to issue visas to Afghan Muslim pilgrims, who have prepared themselves to go to the land of revelation without resources, accepting numerous material problems, purely out of a desire to deliver the bloody message of the oppressed and shackled nation of Afghanistan, took shape as a part of the same anti-Islamic plot by the Saudi regime. The crusading and combative nation of Afghanistan, with inspiration from the humanitarian laws of Islam, have always proven with their words and deeds that they are the unequivocal enemies of the world-devouring East and West and their surrogates in the area, and they vigorously condemn this act by the Saudi regime.

As the interview continued, another Afghan Muslim said: The interesting thing here is that in order to obtain visas the Afghan pilgrims waited two days and nights outside the Saudi Embassy in Tehran as refugees, and asked to talk to embassy officials. The answer was: Since you have no official standing in the eyes of the Saudi Arabian embassy, we cannot enter into talks with you. It is thus clear that for a nation to be officially recognized by the Saudi regime it must first be approved by the East or the West. This in itself shows that the Saudi regime is not qualified to be the keeper of the noble shrines, and that the goal of the Muslim pilgrimage must be administered by the Muslims of the world themselves.

9310

CSO: 4640/715

IRAN

HEZBOLLAH'S 'DREAM' FOR ISLAMIC REGIME IN LEBANON CITED

Paris NEHZAT in Persian 18 Jul 85 pp 1, 3

[Paris NEHZAT in Persian; weekly organ of the Iran National Resistance Movement]

[Text] Hezbollah in Ba'albak who enjoy the direct support of the Islamic Republic dream of an Islamic Republic regime for Lebanon.

Money, arms, and every aspect of social activities provided by the Tehran regime has presently secured public support in this part of Lebanon. Sheykh 'Abbas al-Musavi, the local spiritual leader suddenly declared: "The remedy for Lebanon's troubles is simple--Communism, Capitalism or Islam--but only Islam is able to solve our difficulties and the other schools of thought are not able to do anything." Sheykh 'Abbas al-Musavi who has never met with western correspondents calls himself the leader of the Ba'albak Hezbollah. He does not mind instigating or challenging. He questions: "Why have you come to Ba'albak? Certainly because of the hostage incident you are afraid of us like all westerners." He says: "Islam will obtain an extensive reaction in Lebanon since it is the only sanctuary. People choose the Islamic way of life regardless of all the needed sacrifices and indulgences that this life style demands. The people have realized that the era of other religions has concluded, unlike other religions, Islam takes responsibility for solving all of society's problems." From the view of this religious and political leader, the imported pattern is the Iranian Islamic revolution. Up to now, Ba'albak has preferred not to talk about the financial aid from the Tehran regime to Lebanon's hezbollah, but today Sheik Sheykh 'Abbas al-Musavi revealed without any ambiguity that: "The supreme leader of the Hezbollah is imam Khomeyni, he draws the line for the movement and declares the hezbollah's guidelines since he is the only spiritual leader and is able to contemplate every subject."

Sheikh 'Abbas spoke with the same frankness about the financial sources of the hezbollah. "Money comes mainly from Tehran." The political program of the hezbollah is "to expel colonization from Lebanon, to banish Israel and the establishment of a Islamic Republic." The means to achieve these goals are as follows: "Armed activities and social activities." Sheykh 'Abbas accepts that terrorism, like harshness, is acceptable. In his opinion, due to the anguish and oppression caused by the west for Muslims,

harshness is acceptable. He announces in the mosque: "We must harass Americans wherever they are found in Lebanon, in train stations and airports. You don't have any other way except belonging to the Hezbollah." Sheykh 'Abbas al-Musavi states that "in his eyes it is an honor to be called terrorist whenever the goal is to harass and expel oppressors." Sheykh 'Abbas says: "For a long time the stone mountains of Ba'albak have been the training camp for Palestinian fighters, then Iranian revolutionaries and now Lebanese Hezbollah."

Instead of terrorism he uses the terminology "legitimate defense." Tehran provides expenses for terrorist projects in order to enable its revolutionaries to arrest and question the television crews of the French news agency and the Gama agency in the Beka valley in spite of the presence of Syrians.

In this regard, the Christian minority of Ba'albak is terribly worried. Ba'albak is engulfed by Khomeyni's ideas and large and small pictures of him and his speeches decorate the windows and walls. A Christian student blames the west for the accession of backwardness due to its acquaintances with the Arab world and says: "The poor lose their hearts to the Hezbollah, they don't lose anything."

In King's Bar, the last western outlet of Ba'albak, an unveiled Lebanese woman regrets that life in her town has changed under pressure from the Hezbollah. She does not believe in Islamic Lebanon since only 40 percent of the Lebanese are Shiite (this article is condensed).

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IRAN

BRIEFS

PORTUGAL DESIROUS OF TRADE EXPANSION—In addition to cotton and ores, this year Portugal will purchase a half-million tons of petroleum from Iran. Pintugi Maranesh, the chief of the Portugal Foreign Trade Institute, who had come to our country at the head of a four-person economic and trade delegation, gave an exclusive interview to the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY in which he expressed his views on the expansion of relations between the two countries. He began by noting that this was the first Portuguese delegation to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran after the triumph of the Islamic revolution. He said: During our stay in Iran profitable discussions were held concerning the expansion of cooperation between the two countries with officials from the ministries of commerce, roads and transportation, industry, foreign affairs, petroleum, and heavy industries, as well as officials from the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Mines, and Industry. He added: Prior to the triumph of the Islamic revolution there were extensive commercial relations between the two countries. In view of the good relations between the two countries, we are now planning to increase our cooperation in the areas of technology, industrial projects and commercial exchanges. With regard to the exchange of goods, he said: Since Portugal is an industrial country, we want to obtain raw materials from your country such as cotton, ores, and petroleum. In this regard, this year we plan to purchase a half-million tons of crude oil from Iran, and in return we are prepared to export railroad equipment, chemical products, drugs, and other goods to Iran. In conclusion, the chief of the Portuguese Foreign Trade Institute expressed the hope that the delegation's current trip would prepare the way for future talks between the two countries, because in the area of technology and other industrial projects the two countries can cooperate fruitfully. [Text] [Tehran BURSf 1 Aug 85 pp 1-2] 9310

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